

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



The Stardust Cafe on Polk Street, site of the murder of 24-year-old Tony Rey, who was shot several times in front of the popular eatery last Thursday. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Murders on Polk

by Dennis Conkin

A murder in broad daylight and the grisly find of a dismembered male body in several bags in a sidestreet alley dumpster have rocked Polk Street in the last week.

Tony Rey, 24, was pro-

nounced dead at San Francisco General Hospital on Thursday, March 24, shortly after he was shot in the heart by an assailant around 4:30 p.m. in front of the Stardust Cafe. The shooting followed a fight that began inside the popular diner and then moved to the

street, sources say.

According to homicide inspectors, Rey was spotted in the cafe by the killer, who knocked on the window and then entered the restaurant.

"Words were exchanged, and then the suspect slapped

(Continued on page 26)

Sacto MCC Facility Burned Down

Building is Total Loss; ATF Agents Called in To Investigate

by Marghe Covino

SACRAMENTO — Tears streamed down Reverend Ed Sherriff's bearded face Sunday night as he watched roaring flames devour his beloved Samaritan Center. River City Metropolitan Community Church members and their pastor, Reverend Freda Smith, alternately huddled in prayer and stared in disbelief as flames shot 30 to 40 feet into the midnight sky. The fire raged until 3 a.m. and then flared up again at 4 a.m. before it was finally extinguished.

Earlier on Sunday night, during evening worship services, a church board member's car was broken into and keys to the Samaritan building were stolen. When the break-in was discovered, a locksmith was called to look at the building and assess what locks needed to be changed. Church members were in the building until after 11 p.m., minutes before the fire broke out.

Reverend Freda had just arrived home when she was told about the fire and turned



Federal arson investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have been called in to investigate the suspicious fire that struck Sacramento's Samaritan Center March 28. (Photo: Marghe Covino)

around and sped back to the site. "I can't believe this is happening," she said. "All of our district records, our computers, our 10,000-book library, all of our programs — I can't believe anyone would do this."

River City MCC serves as an integral part of Oak Park, a predominantly African-American community, by

feeding breakfast and a dinner-sized hot lunch six days a week to the poor and homeless. All church programs are funded through the church and its "Out of the Closet Boutique" thrift store. No federal, state, or local funds are used. The food program, headed by Reverend Ed, is so unique that Russian Orthodox Church officials in Moscow have asked him to come to Russia to teach the Soviets to run a similar program.

"The church also has an AIDS ministry and Samaritan Center houses one of the oldest-running Alcoholics Anonymous groups, which has been meeting here for almost 20 years," said Reverend Freda. "We also provide meeting space for Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and other support groups — and, of

(Continued on page 26)

What's Up at PAWS?

by Mara Math

If fish and water are symbols of life, the aquarium at the PAWS office is a visual clue of an organization in crisis. The fish aren't belly-up in the murky water yet, but the organization is close, and the 444 PWAs who depend on PAWS — "Pets are Wonderful Support" — for pet food delivery, dogwalking, litterbox cleaning, and other services are deeply distressed.

How did PAWS, a popular charity that took in over \$350,000 in private donations last year to provide pets and pet supplies to PWAs, reach the point where the only full-time employee left is Maryann Cleary, an interim executive director who calls the gay community "a whole new subculture to me?" How was she able to give herself a \$5,000 raise after three months in office, only to shut down pet food deliveries and services last week, citing a lack of funds and volunteers?

How could it get so acrimonious at PAWS that it is being sued by both a former executive director — a case in which all parties must now refuse comment — and separately by a former staffer and volunteer who was denied bereavement leave when his lover died?

PAWS Board President Ron Lewis says Cleary was chosen for her background in nonprofits. "She knew how to deal with people — knew how to deal with the human side, the human emotions and human frailties," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "She had worked in drug and alcohol rehab. She knew about the client side as well as the business side. She had the most experience in case management, which we needed. We were growing and we needed somebody with that; we're no longer a little mom-and-pop organization."

Cleary was brought in by the board to implement the corporatization of PAWS, with both sides in agreement that PAWS should forget about private funding and "compete" for federal funds.

Since then, her tangible achievements appear to have been creating "case-management forms," making a new brochure, and trying to institute weekly 12-step type meetings for volunteers. And although the job resume she is now sending out — to places like the Make A Wish Foundation — claims she "developed a vet clinic," others say she in fact failed to secure a location, after putting volunteers through nine-hour training sessions, for the clinic that was not to be. But clients, former volunteers, and former employees say the things that haven't been done only starts

there, and there are many worse problems. So much worse, in fact, some have begun legal proceedings.

An inappropriate firing?

One lawsuit can be traced back to last November when, with the board's approval, Cleary attempted to dump the staff's accrued vacation time, sick leave, and comp time. Staff objections halted this process until January, when employees were asked to sign a memo stating they "had been informed, understood and accepted the changes in the personnel policy" — which had not yet been detailed. The memo was backdated to December 31, 1993, in contravention of labor law.

When Pet Food Delivery Team Leader Chuck Lawson announced he would attend January 11, the board meeting that night, Lewis assured him that the policy was not on the agenda and would not be discussed, and suggested that since Lawson's lover, Scott

Binkley, was ill, Lawson might want to go home. Lawson did, only to find a week later that the board had in fact voted the new policy in retroactively that night. According to a source who was there, the board

also voted that night to lay Lawson off within three months "for economic reasons," a claim Lewis and treasurer Michael Philipson deny.

Felix Vega and Ray Smith of the board's personnel committee called Lawson after Binkley's death and told him to take as much time off as he needed. But when Lawson returned to work, he found his absence was charged to his accrued sick pay — the same sick pay in dispute — instead of bereavement leave. When he protested, Cleary allegedly responded, "There is no bereavement leave. You're not going to be granted any, not even one day. There isn't any in the personnel policy and we decided it's an oversight that isn't going to be rectified. You will get sick pay."

Nancy Eswein, who had been with PAWS since 1988, as a volunteer and then as a Director of Client Services, resigned over the issue of Lawson's bereavement leave.

"I was appalled," she said, "that I was working for someone who had the morals of a snake. No offense to snakes."

"It's not about money," Lawson says now, since his time off was paid in any case. "It's about what's right and wrong. How can we preach one thing — compassion and goodwill and accepting this disease as a condition of modern society — and practice another? If I had been a straight woman whose husband died of cancer, she would have

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Bankruptcy

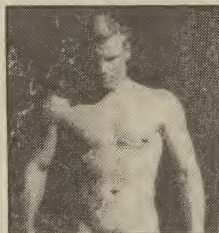


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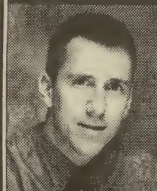


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Community News

Caplan Convicted

by Dennis Conkin

On Thursday, March 24, a San Francisco jury found disgraced gay attorney Walter Caplan guilty of stealing more than \$40,000 from a gay man who was dying of AIDS.

At press time, the Superior Court jury remained sequestered as members considered more charges of grand theft and perjury against Caplan, a onetime aide to former Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver.

Caplan faces a sentence of seven years in state prison on the jury conviction, according to Assistant District Attorney Donald Sanchez.

"He's a vulture, a predator, and a truly despicable person," Sanchez told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Walter Caplan lied and betrayed and manipulated the financial affairs of his dying clients. He violated his oath as a lawyer and his duty and obligation as a friend and human being."

Caplan was found guilty by the jury of stealing the funds in 1991 from Charles Cyberski, the owner of Male Entertainment Network, a gay events video production and distribution network.

Cyberski obtained the funds in question from a mortgage on his property, arranged by Caplan, in order to pay for medical expenses related to his illness.

Caplan later drained the funds in \$5,000 increments from the account, to which he was signatory, over a period of several months.

Cyberski discovered the embezzlement after an investigator for the State Bar of California alerted him that a check he had written, to cov-

er the interest, had been deposited in a Caplan account.

Cyberski also discovered that, unbeknownst to him, Caplan had been suspended from the practice of law.

Caplan and Cyberski had been friends for more than a decade prior to the incident, but Cyberski sued over the incident. The suit was settled out of court, and a state bar fund later repaid the money spent by Caplan.

Caplan's attorney, Doran Weinberg, argued in closing arguments before the jury that Sanchez had not established "beyond a reasonable doubt" that Caplan had withdrawn the funds and applied them to his own use with the intent to commit theft.

"Did Walter Caplan set out to steal money from his good friend Charles Cyberski? Was that his intent or did he believe that it was okay to borrow that money and repay it?" Weinberg asked the jury.

Weinberg portrayed Caplan as a man who extensively borrowed funds from friends, but always repaid them. He portrayed Cyberski, however, as a manic-depressive suffering a "full blown psychotic episode," whose veracity about a December 1991 hospital incident was questionable.

Cyberski testified on videotape prior to his death that he was "shocked and outraged" to discover that Caplan had been given right of first refusal to buy Cyberski's house after he died, and that he believed Caplan was his attorney.

The defense submitted evidence that Caplan did not prepare the will, and that Cyberski knew another attorney



Gay SF attorney Walter Caplan: guilty as charged.

had prepared the will and was acting as his attorney in the matter.

"There is no evidence that Mr. Cyberski was paranoid," Sanchez responded to Weinberg's characterization of Cyberski. He rebutted Weinberg's assertion that there was any reasonable doubt in the case, and told the jury that Caplan clearly took the money from Cyberski without authorization and spent it for his own use.

The jury also found Caplan guilty of stealing more than \$20,000 from the late Robert Owens, who also died of AIDS.

Caplan pleaded guilty to one felony count of practicing law while suspended from the practice of law shortly before he went to trial last month on the embezzlement charges.

Sentencing is set for April 28.

The District Attorney's office will ask this week that Caplan be remanded without bail because Sanchez believes he is a flight risk.

Caplan is expected to appeal. ▼

D.A.: Pot Growing PWA Won't Go to Jail

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man with HIV, who faced a jail sentence of three years for the possession and cultivation of 144 marijuana plants, has been given a drug diversion alternative to incarceration, the District Attorney's Office announced last week.

Terrance Alan will receive the alternative disposition of his case, according to District Attorney Arlo Smith.

"We've been working this out for a long period of time, actually," Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Alan accepted the diversion under Section 100.3 of the State Penal Code, which allows for such alternatives to incarceration.

According to Smith, under the state statutes a judge sets the length of time a person shall participate in the program — ranging between six months and two years.

Alan's case was referred to the District Attorney for prosecution following an investigation between federal Drug Enforcement Agency officers and state narcotics agents that led to his arrest on May 25, 1993.

"In addition to 144 marijuana plants, Mr. Alan also had

2.2 pounds of marijuana. As you know, I have publicly stated and written letters urging the state legislature to legalize the medical use of marijuana for people with illnesses such as HIV and AIDS, cancer, and other terminal illness to alleviate their pain and to provide other relief. But I also believe that such use must be controlled, probably through prescription," Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "But possession and sales of marijuana still remain against the law."

Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the prosecution of marijuana cases is a low priority in his office.

"But 144 plants and 2.2 pounds of marijuana is different than five joints," he said. Smith also said that if his office had declined the case, Alan could have been charged with federal offenses and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney or on state charges by the State's Attorney General's Office, run by a right wing anti-gay Republican.

"I guess this is good news. Terrance had a very big struggle and I'm glad it's over," said medical marijuana advocate Dennis Peron. "But he's never going to get back the time he didn't have with



Terrance Alan.

his lover [who died of AIDS-related complications after Alan's arrest]. This should be the last marijuana case prosecuted in San Francisco."

Even though the disposition of the case was satisfactory to Alan, Peron said, the diversion program will not repair the harm done during his arrest — and he says that because there will be no trial on the charges, "the true story of how mean they were to him will never told. They hastened his lover Randall's death," Peron said.

Because of the disposition of the case, a board of supervisor's inquiry into the incident has been tabled, according to President of the Board of Supervisors Angela Alioto.

"I'm happy for Mr. Alan," Alioto told the B.A.R. "I'm glad that he didn't have to go through the stress of a trial. Marijuana should be available for medical reasons to any person who has a terminal illness. They should be able to have it and should be left alone," Alioto said. ▼

INS Grants Asylum to Gay Man

by Kimberly Griffin

In what is believed to be the first decision of its kind by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, a gay Mexican national was granted asylum on Monday, March 28, after establishing a "well-founded fear of persecution" on the basis of his sexual orientation.

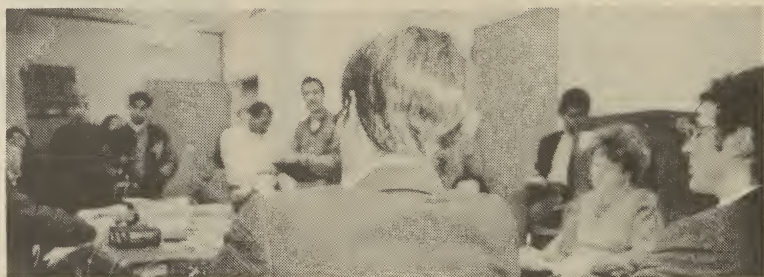
The man, identified by the pseudonym Jose Garcia, said police in his native Chiapas raped him and repeatedly harassed and falsely arrested him before he moved to San Francisco 14 years ago. Garcia, who has been living as an undocumented alien since then, told the INS he feared persecution if he were to return to Mexico, particularly because he has been active in the gay and lesbian community in San Francisco as an HIV/AIDS educator and counselor.

Garcia's HIV status has not been released, but his lawyer said that being HIV-positive does not bar someone from being granted asylum.

The decision of the INS in Garcia's case is significant because it is the first time the agency has recognized a person's sexual orientation as a class protected by the Refugee Act of 1980, said Garcia's lawyer, Ron Silberstein. However, the decision in this one case is not precedent-setting, both Silberstein and INS spokespersons were quick to add.

"He didn't get asylum because he was homosexual," said Rick Kenny of the INS. "He was granted asylum because he feared persecution on the basis of his sexual orientation."

Last summer, a gay Brazilian national, Marcelo Tenorio, was granted asylum by an immigration judge after deportation proceedings had been initiated against him. But that decision, also made in San Francisco, is now on appeal by the INS, said Jorge Cortiñas, program director for the International Lesbian and Gay Commission on Human Rights. The appeal of Teno-



Free at last? "Jose Garcia" meets the press March 24 to announce that the INS has granted him asylum because he had established a well-founded fear of persecution due to his sexual orientation. It is believed to be the first such decision by the INS rather than by an immigration judge. The asylum seeker used an alias and refused to be photographed. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

rio's case — which differs from Garcia's in part because it was decided by an immigration judge rather than an INS administrator — further illustrates Garcia's asylum is not necessarily precedent-setting. "The INS is under no requirement to follow the same line of reasoning in any other case," Cortiñas said. "The issue is still very much up for grabs."

The international commission is currently tracking the cases of approximately 40 gay immigrants who are seeking asylum.

"That, in the big scheme of things, is a drop in the asylum bucket," Cortiñas said. Nonetheless, it is significant that being gay has been considered as belonging to a social group. The Refugee Act allows asylum to be granted

to people who demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution based on either their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group.

It is hoped that the asylum of Tenorio, the gay Brazilian, will not be reversed on appeal, Cortiñas said. "Then it would have precedence, because it would be at a higher level [at INS]," Cortiñas said. ▼

Miller Wins Court Decision

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Acting Secretary of State Tony Miller weathered a court challenge last week as Democrat Michael Woo of Southern California challenged Miller's use of his job title on the ballot. Both Woo and Miller, an openly gay man, are running for Secretary of State, a position vacated by Miller's former boss, March Fong Eu.

The hearing was held Thursday, March 24 in Sacramento Superior Court, where Judge James Ford ruled that the Acting Secretary of State "has the right to use his job title as his ballot designation."

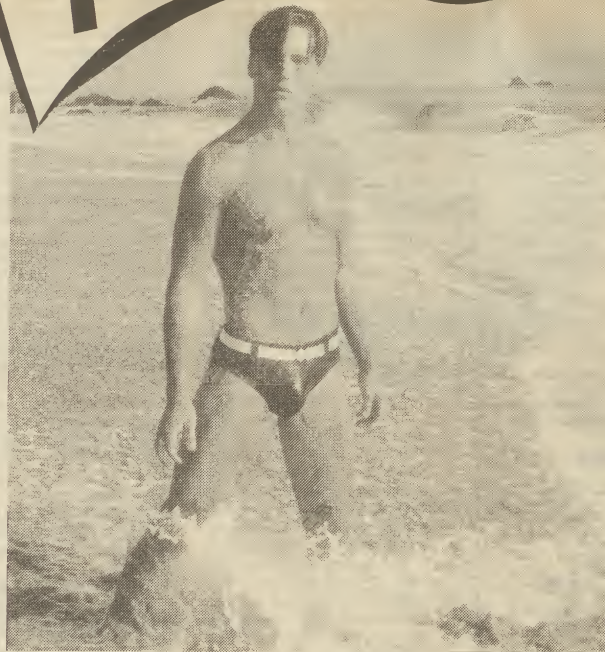
Miller's campaign manager, Ron Gray, labeled the lawsuit as "frivolous."

"This lawsuit was a desperate attempt on the part of Mike Woo to have the court reject Tony's ballot designation because he sees it as an obvious benefit to Tony's election," Gray said.

Gray said one of the reasons for the suit is that Woo has access to the same polling information as Miller. "And the information from the polls is clear," Gray stated. "Tony's experience as Acting Secretary of State now and as Chief Deputy Secretary of State for the past 12 years will be seen by voters as a positive. The truth is that Tony's the only really qualified Democratic candidate seeking this office — the only one qualified and with the credibility to do the job," Gray said.

Indeed, Miller's campaign appears to have taken wing. He has a full calendar of events and fundraisers scheduled around the state and has generated valuable support in the media. His campaign has also attracted the attention of the national press; he is scheduled for a forthcoming in-depth interview on CNN. ▼

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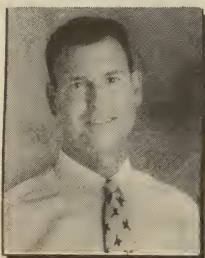
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Community News



Log rolling

Mayor Frank Jordan speaks about his Matrix program to an appreciative Log Cabin audience. AIDS financing and the proposed 132 Turk bathhouse were only briefly discussed during the 30-minute talk with the friendly gay Republicans.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Less of What You're Looking For?

Viacom Accused of Censoring Gay Programming

by Dennis Conkin

Local cable television public access advocates are awaiting a decision by U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Caulfield on whether to grant a preliminary injunction forbidding Viacom to continue to practice what they say is censorship.

Caulfield heard motions for and against the preliminary injunction, sought by a coalition of video artists and activists and the Community Television Corporation on March 18, according to attorney Chris Witteman.

Four of the five shows that Viacom is attempting to block from general viewing in San Francisco have strong lesbian and gay cultural and artistic themes.

Viacom, which owns a variety of television networks including Showtime, Nickelodeon, MTV, and VH-1, wants local producers to sign a guarantee that they will not broadcast "indecent material." If they refuse, the cable operator plans to move the shows to the scrambled access time after 10:30 p.m., when programs are available only to subscribers who request that they receive unblocked "sexual content."

"And they'll have to pay for it," says Sande Mack, videographer and producer of the acclaimed *Electric City*, which airs every Friday night at 10 p.m. on Channel 53.

Not only is Mack threatened with having the half-hour cultural affairs program moved, he says that Viacom frequently censors the show.

"We've been cut off the air four times in the last year, and we've been threatened with being cut off seven other times," Mack told the B.A.R.

Mack says that Viacom has pulled the the show, which has a cultural and community

activism focus, for showing clips of leatherpeople at Dore Alley and Folsom Street Fairs, frontal nudity of men, and other segments.

"We've been through it so often. They know it's wrong and we have a First Amendment right, but they do it anyway," Mack said.

What really steams Mack is that Viacom's decision about when to pull the show on obscenity grounds isn't made by an attorney or a Viacom employee, but by an unpaid volunteer in the control room.

"And she's a lesbian. I think that's the obscenity. It's a real slap in the face. It's okay to put nude women on the air and she doesn't find that obscene, but as soon as we put a nude man on the air, she cuts us off."

Mack also said that the censor also has complained to Electric City that she did not like the show because it didn't focus enough on women's issues.

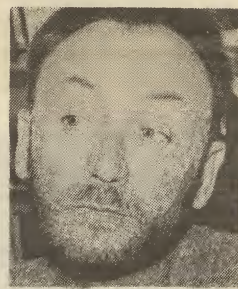
"It's clear what her agenda is," Mack said. "I told her that she should do her own program."

Witteman blasted the San Francisco board of supervisors for its failure to intervene in the issue, even though it has federally mandated oversight responsibility over the cable operator.

"The board of supervisors is reluctant to comment. They've basically taken a supine position. The city receives a five percent franchise fee from Viacom and if they don't pay it they are out," Witteman said. "There are hundreds of operators who would love to be in San Francisco."

The five percent franchise fee of gross receipts is an estimated \$3 million a year.

"The real reason that the supervisors don't stand up to these on-going problems with



Electric City producer Sande Mack.

(Photo: Darlene Photo/Graphics)

Viacom is that it Viacom has lobbyists all over City Hall and there's no effective lobbyist for citizen views," Witteman said.

Viacom spokesperson Susan Levitin denied that the cable operator practiced censorship, but said that Viacom had the obligation not to allow "indecent material" into subscribers' homes uninvited and that the cable company wanted to move the programs because it was concerned about children watching the programs.

"Our efforts are to try to accommodate all the diverse voices in San Francisco," Levitin told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"That's bullshit," Witteman said. "If they wanted to protect children, they can provide viewers with parental control boxes, which Congress required in 1984. In the ten years those boxes have been available, Viacom has never offered them to subscribers," Witteman said.

Viacom decency guidelines only allow for "programming that does not sexual or excretory acts or organs in a patently offensive manner as measured by contemporary community standards," according to Levitin. ▼

Community News

SFAF Forum next Wednesday: HIV/AIDS and Healthcare Reform

The controversial and frequently confusing subject of national healthcare reform and its effect on people with HIV and AIDS will be the topic of a free, regional forum hosted by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation on Wednesday, April 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The forum, at the Green Room on the second floor of the War Memorial Building, located at 401 Van Ness Avenue, will feature speeches by White House Health Policy Advisor Larry Levitt; Paul A. DiDonato, public policy associate at SFAF, and Dr. Anthony Iton, representative of Health Access and Consumer's Union. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi has also been invited to speak.

The forum will include an overview of the health care crisis, details of the Clinton Health Security Act of 1993 and its impact on people with HIV/AIDS, major elements of key Congressional bills on health care reform, a review of the current media and political climate towards health care reform generally and from an HIV/AIDS perspective, and actions everyone can take to influence the debate on behalf of people with HIV and AIDS.

Extensive written materials on HIV/AIDS and national health care reform — including community organizing, advocacy, and media materials — will also be available to all forum participants.

Spanish and A.S.L. translation services will be provided at the free public forum. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

For more information and to register, please call the Public Policy Department at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, at 415-864-5855. Registration forms are available and may be submitted by fax, at 415-487-3097. ▼

New Vaccine Design: With "Heart of Stone"

by Lidia Wasowicz
UPI Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In a first step toward possible inoculations for virtually any virus, scientists Friday reported developing a prototype vaccine technology that uses tiny diamond particles to induce immunity.

The researchers found that their chemically manufactured vaccine using the Epstein-Barr virus and HIV was as effective as live viruses in producing antibodies in laboratory rabbits, mice, and guinea pigs.

"The results show our decoy virus produces the same immunity as the live virus," said head researcher Dr. Nir Kossovsky of the University of California, Los Angeles.

"And there are 7,000 to 8,000 viruses for which this system will potentially be able to deliver a vaccine. In theory, we can make a vaccine for any virus that exists."

The UCLA researchers said their "decoy" virus of a sugar-coated core of tiny dia-

mond particles is harmless but readily recognized by the body and can deliver a wide array of antigens into the body.

The antigen or "outer clothing" of the virus is the part against which the body targets its antibody response, said Kossovsky, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine.

"What makes a virus dangerous is the genetic core that allows it to replicate," he said. "Our decoy virus has, literally, a heart of stone that is biologically inactive. It looks like a virus but cannot reproduce or cause disease."

The sugar coating enables the virus molecules to cling to the core without becoming damaged or changing shape.

The researchers predict human trials of the vaccine, which can be chemically manufactured in as little as 48 hours, will begin in two years to five years.

The scientists presented their findings at a meeting of the American Chemical Society. ▼

Bagels Are Coming to the Castro

by Dennis Conkin

The Board of Supervisors on March 28 unanimously passed legislation giving Noah's Bagel's, the Emeryville-based bagel maker, the right to apply for a conditional use permit for 400 Castro Street.

The company will open a retail outlet at the site and give the remainder of the large facility rent-free to the HIV/AIDS Life Center to operate an AIDS resource center.

The non-profit group will manage the site, which will house programs of the University of California's AIDS Health Project, including intake and referral for city-wide AIDS programs, counseling and support groups, a confidential HIV testing unit, and other services.

Mayor Jordan is expected to sign the legislation by March 31, according to lesbian and gay liaison Robert Oakes.

"Mayor Jordan supports this type of non-profit and private sector partnership to benefit the San Francisco community," Oakes told the Bay Area Reporter.

"We're very excited," said Noah's president Bill Hughston. "We are really proud to be part of this project. The next step is to file our application and get the permits."

The company will pay \$120,000 to renovate the site and will have a seven-year lease, with an option to renew.



Many Castro merchants continue to oppose the plan to turn the now vacant building at 400 Castro into a site for Noah's Bagels and the Life Center. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

The Life Center will use the site for three years while its own facility at Market and Noe is under construction. When it moves, the Castro Street site will be taken over by the Golden Gate Performing Arts Association.

The proposed venture was initially opposed by local food merchants who complained of poor neighborhood outreach about the project and expressed concern that struggling food businesses would suffer. Others expressed concern over the influx of anti-gay and criminal elements who would be drawn to the area because of the fast food operation.

"I'm sympathetic to their concerns," Hughston said. "But I believe that our store will do nothing but enhance the area and they will experi-

ence an increase in business. That's been our experience in our other locations."

The Board's legislation was required because of a decade-old ordinance banning restaurants from opening in commercial property that was not previously used as a restaurant.

The proposal will now go back to the Planning Department and a public hearing by the Planning Commission, probably within two months, said Jean-Paul Samaha, an aide to Supervisor Terence Hallinan.

Hallinan authored the legislation allowing Noah's to apply for the conditional use permit. The measure was co-sponsored by all members of the Board of Supervisors, including Supervisors Carole Migden and Susan Leal. ▼

Catholic Child Abuse Charges Come to S.F.

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — The Archdiocese of San Francisco announced Friday, March 25, it has placed Monsignor Patrick O'Shea, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church, on administrative leave while police investigate allegations of child abuse.

Officer Dave Ambrose, spokesman for the San Francisco Police Department, confirmed authorities were investigating the allegations, but refused to reveal further details.

Archbishop John Quinn first became aware of the investigation a few weeks ago when members of St. Cecilia's were interviewed by police officers. He placed

O'Shea on official leave March 11.

"The Archdiocese intends to fully cooperate with civil authorities in this matter," Quinn said. "We express our deepest concern for all the parties involved in the allegations, and our willingness to offer appropriate pastoral support."

Quinn also offered his support to the members of St. Cecilia's and also Holy Name of Jesus parish, where O'Shea had previously been assigned.

However, he was also quick to point out that he "recognized Monsignor O'Shea's constitutional right to be presumed innocent of criminal conduct until proven guilty in the criminal justice system." ▼



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Editorial

Who Don't Need No Education?

Over the past few days, fundamentalists have been lining up from Washington to Texas to Sacramento to seize control of the next generation, by trying to control the education each American child is guaranteed. And while we are glad to see anything that passes for concern about public education from that end of the political spectrum after 12 years of Republican apathy and worse, we are horrified and angry that their obvious goal is to misinform millions of impressionable young Americans.

Considering that the needs of this country's kids have long been ignored — except in the case of daycare, hot meals, and medicine, where they are openly mocked — by lawmakers from the right wing, and considering that the architects of the GOP's new world order gave away the next generation's money to fund lavish lifestyles for Wall Streeters and other Republican friends in the last generation, and considering that the kids now in school are going to be graduated into a world that has had its resources raped and its opportunities destroyed, perhaps it would be ridiculous for the right wing to take any other approach. If the next generation isn't intentionally kept ignorant, it may get very angry. Uncontrollably so.

Still, we have to wonder what could possess Texans to sentence so many of their sons to a horrifying death, by demanding the removal of life-saving information about testicular cancer from a health textbook. Considering there are only a couple of cancers likely to strike schoolkids, and considering that only one is possible to arrest early with routine self-examinations, it would seem educators and parents would clamor to get that information into the hands of every post-pubescent boy. But since the potential cancerous site is a sex organ — nasty, nasty — the feeling in Texas is apparently that people prefer their boys dead to touching themselves in a possibly impure manner.

Some parent, eventually, is going to discover that their son fell victim to an avoidable cancer and will sue. We hope those who are now so vocal about removing the offending material will also stand and be counted when the defendants in that case are named. We doubt it, though: the history of the fundy movement, like all cowardly cabals, is full of stories of later denial of responsibility.

Anyway, we believe the details about testicular cancer are important, which is why we have an article on the subject in this issue. And if Texas boys resort to reading the gay press in large numbers because it's the only way they can save their lives, we don't want the fundies to come whining to us about it. They had their chance to educate and squandered it in a questionable grab for power.

Meanwhile, as we said, other extremists have been frothing at the mouth in Sacramento (see page 14) and in Washington, D.C. (page 18). And it is no accident that homosexuality is a frequently-discussed topic at those contentious meetings. We are the *issue du jour* against which everything else must be measured, compared, and contrasted. Make no mistake about it, the efforts of the right wing may alternate between the sharp and the blunt, but they are all aimed at us right now.

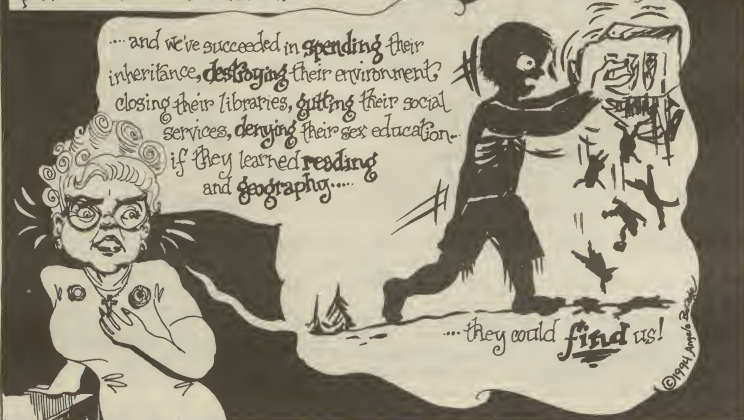
We take this opportunity to welcome Brenda and Wanda Henson to our fair town, from their war zone in Overt, Mississippi — which is a piece of Hell, apparently, but they call it home. As they have every right to do, particularly when some bigots down the road try to rewrite the American Rules to exclude them. This country does not belong to the rich white heterosexual male. If it ever did, that group got too fat and lazy to defend the territory. We salute the Hensons for demanding to be part of the country's rich diversity and applaud their tenacity.

Finally, although we know some readers may be upset that we are exposing the problems at Pets Are Wonderful Support in this issue, we have gotten so many calls from nearly-hysterical clients and frustrated volunteers over the past days we felt we had to look into the situation there. We aren't out to destroy anyone's career, and we certainly do not want to destroy PAWS, but neither do we want to see it destroyed on its own.

At this moment, there is only one employee at PAWS; whatever one may think of the situation there, it is clearly impossible for it to accomplish enough for so many with so little. The next PAWS meeting is this Tuesday; anyone who relies on the organization, or who knows someone who does, may want to set aside the time to attend. PAWS is one of the things about San Francisco's response to AIDS that makes the city so special. Like anything else of value, it deserves to be saved.

And, returning to our original topic, so does American education. Knowledge is power; everyone should have some. ▼

The Reverend's wife shares her revelation on why secular public education must be dismantled...



Guest Opinion

What About Crime in the Castro?

by Supervisor Carole Migden

Crime increasingly dominates the concerns of the people of San Francisco, like all other cities. Statistics show that crime is actually decreasing in our city, but these numbers give little comfort to the fear and apprehension people live with each day. Sadly, crime is becoming much more violent, and a well-publicized crime can ignite public fear, as happened recently in the Castro.

The public, fueled by sensational media coverage, has demanded a response from public officials. And public officials have responded with measures to address the problem some of them almost worse than the problem itself. I, too, am alarmed by the increasingly violent nature of crime in our city and in the Castro, and have worked for progressive, and not only "law and order," solutions. I have voted for funds for more police officers to walk neighborhood beats, carried legislation to heavily tax gun sales, worked to increase city support for neighborhood crime fighting programs, and worked to create a "drug court" to help "detox" drug users who commit crimes.

In the Castro, crime and violence continue at unacceptable levels. Even lesbians and gay men, traditionally unwelcome of a strong police presence in the Castro, have called for additional officers to respond to serious crimes and hate crimes. Calls for police to deal with "quality of life" problems presented by homelessness and poverty have also increased, as the mayor's Matrix program downtown has heightened the presence of street people in city neighborhoods like the Castro.

In February, I asked for increased police beats in the Castro and arranged a meeting with neighborhood merchants and Police Chief Ribera to discuss a rash of violent crimes in the area. Chief Ribera and Captain Santos of Mission Station have increased both uniformed and undercover police presence in the Castro. Two beat officers are now walking the Castro seven days a week.

Captain Santos reports that last week the department arrested a suspect in nearly 20 neighborhood robberies, and although his accomplice is still being sought, crimes have decreased in the neighborhood. Although Mission Station is currently awaiting additional staffing, promised by July, the Captain intends to keep beat cops in place to discourage crime.

Having worked with other neighborhoods to help them reduce crime, I know that illegal activity is more likely to occur in neighborhoods where residents and merchants take no visible interest in conditions there.

We can offer significant assistance to the police as they go about their job of crime prevention and apprehension of offenders. Merchants, neighbors, and those who frequent the Castro need to be involved in helping the police curb crime and to help us send the message that offensive and illegal activity will not be tolerated there.

Captain Santos says that the recent reduction in crime in the Castro has resulted in part from the fact that merchants are organizing themselves and taking a more active role in crime prevention, as are people in the neighborhood. The police have been assisted in several important recent arrests by witnesses to crimes who took enough interest to alert police and assist them.

It is important that merchants, residents, and those of us with a stake in the future of the Castro organize to let criminals know we will resist their efforts to invade the neighborhood and destroy its peaceful equilibrium. Our merchants and residents ought to be congratulated for their recent efforts to organize to fight neighborhood crime.

Bashings of gay men and lesbians continue in various parts of our city and in the Castro. As with other crimes, hate crimes are also becoming more violent. Again, preventing these crimes requires that we all pitch in and create an environment in which we are less vulnerable to attack.

Community United Against Violence reminds us that it is not wise to walk home alone at night, and making the effort to pair up to get someone home safely protects our entire community. CUAV also urges people to remember that whistles are still a good deterrent to hate crimes, and I join in encouraging all lesbians and gay men to carry them.

We can and should be a strong and cohesive community, and help each other protect ourselves from those who would harm us. I will continue to work to assure that we have adequate police protection, and we must all work together to maximize that protection by looking out for ourselves and one another.

I welcome your thoughts about how to make the Castro a more livable and safer neighborhood. ▼

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Letters

Remember

Greed is the only reason that would open the bath houses. To those of us who remember delivering meals to the patients at San Francisco General Hospital in 1980 and 1981 because the staff was afraid to go into the rooms; holding your buddy's hand as he screamed for morphine because every breath was searing pain; talking your buddies into "letting go," everything is O.K.; watching your brother go from 189 to 92 pounds with sores all over his body and the doctor standing there as helpless as you, praying for death; a mother and father standing helplessly in the darkened room, not understanding at all what is killing their child; the countless mothers and fathers who disowned their child until the insurance payment was made; the candlelight marches; the millions of hours donated, the care givers, the millions of dollars collected, begged for... an administration that for 12 years would not even mention the words AIDS or GRID, as it was called early on... the daily struggle for the patient, the daily or weekly visits to doctor's offices or hospitals with hope that today they may have discovered a cure — only to be given still another injection, or prescription followed by still another appointment — that is if you had the money and/or the insurer.

People are still dying every day and becoming infected every day because of a lack of truthful information from a society that can't even say the words "sex" or "condom," let alone discuss AIDS.

Blood and semen carry the virus, there is no cure and not even a promise of one in the very near future. Please do not allow the bathhouses to open. As the City that showed the rest of the world how to cope, let us not undo it all for greed.

Dave Barbour
San Francisco

Ed. Note: Like you said, blood and semen carry the virus. Buildings don't.

Reentering the Combat Zone

The owners of the Steamworks bathhouse in Berkeley either have short memories or they do not know the Tenderloin area of San Francisco. Here they are, spending thousands of dollars to build a bathhouse on the very same crime-ridden block of Turk Street where worsening crime and gay bashings forced the Bulldog Baths out of business a full year before the San Francisco Health Department shut down all the other gay men's bathhouses in the city because of the AIDS epidemic.

The 100 block of Turk Street is still a "combat zone" of muggers, prostitutes and drug pushers, who in his right mind is going to venture into that crime-infested block to go to the prosed "132 Turk" bathhouse? Especially at night? I certainly will not. So many Bulldog Bath patrons got gay bashed either going in or coming out that by 1983 the Bulldog was forced to close its doors because of the subsequent loss of business. The Steamworks owners should have their heads examined.

D.B. Saunders
San Francisco

Frustrated Non-Gay?

Undoubtedly you'll get many nasty letters responding to the angry one printed from the man who wishes to be heterosexual. My initial reaction was bitchy; but after deliberation, these are my thoughts:

Good luck young man. If you think you'll be happier as a nongay, I hope you succeed. And if you find out that you cannot be, I hope you'll be able to return to us easily, without being depressed and turn your attempt into a valuable tool to help others who must also try and then learn differently.

We ask nongays to accept, if not understand, us. The least we might do is not turn on someone who feels the need to try the heterosexual life.

I came out in 1951, and so I've seen many, many changes in attitudes through the years and the one society possessed at that time was that we were not homosexuals, we were homosexuals practicing perversions. Almost all of us were determined to go straight. If anyone made it, I've never heard from them again.

Here in Los Angeles County, there was a situation similar to yours about 10 years ago. The young man going straight wrote angry letters to the gay publications and quoted the Bible bibulously. Eventually, there was an apologetic letter as he found the organized-religion Christian God a lie and found a different route to spirituality. He accepted his gayness finally. Maybe your adventure in life will turn out differently.

To be heterosexual, you'll need to get homosexuality off your mind. Reading our publications and writing angry letters means you are thinking about us. Give it up. Stop reading and writing; concentrate on what you want to be. Otherwise, you are a frustrated gay practicing nongay sex.

Whatever is ahead for you, I wish you peace and the best of luck.

Mike Varady
Silver Lake, CA

Deserves Compassion, Understanding — and Christ

Troy Lyons (Letters, March 10) should be ashamed of himself. He tells us that he was criminally abused by his uncle as a child and therefore he gives money to people like Fred Phelps. He deserves our compassion and understanding for his abuse, but it is clear he is abusive himself — perhaps not directly, but by supporting the unchristian behavior of people like Fred Phelps.

Christ never said one word against homosexuals or homosexuality. He said plenty about sin and our response to it — "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her" (Jn 8:7), and he said a lot about our behavior toward each other — "...inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt 25:40).

Mr. Lyons needs to look into his own heart to understand his rage and come to terms with it and, perhaps, if he truly came unto Christ, he would finally find peace. Remember, Mr. Lyons, God loves you.

Tom Babcock
San Francisco

Juicy Bigots

The following letter was sent to the Public Relations Department, Florida Citrus Commission, P.O. Box 148, Lakeland, FL 33802-0148:

I am deeply disturbed and disappointed to learn that the Florida Citrus Commission has chosen right wing commentator Rush Limbaugh to represent your industry to the nation. What on earth made you think that hiring a negative, minority-bashing media demagogue would sell more Florida orange juice (unless marketing surveys show a need to increase sales among the intolerant and the narrow minded)?

I'm sure there are those in your organization who thought that contracting with the rotund Ringling Brother of radio was a major coup. But do you realize the hurt and hate this man has broadcast against gays and lesbians, against women and against virtually all non-white Americans since his venomous verbal vacuousness hit the airwaves several years ago?

Will a symbol of bigotry and intolerance really help you peddle more cases of orange juice? I think it will not. I think reasonable people throughout this nation, of every ethnicity and of all political points will see this to be the calculating blunder it is. I think that you will, in fact, sell less orange juice than before.

I, for one, will boycott all Florida citrus products as long as you choose to have Rush Limbaugh represent your industry to America. Certainly, you can do better than this.

Michael Hennessey, Sheriff
City & County of San Francisco

Puffing Hypocrites

I congratulate you on printing an outstanding op-ed piece by John Godges and Danny Jenkins ("Don't Drink and Ride," March 10). In a very principled manner, they called for a dialogue on the sponsorship of community events — particularly fundraisers for AIDS and other health issues — that involves the peddling of products that harm us.

In that vein, I would like to call attention to an event that took place in Houston on March 19. AmFAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, was the beneficiary of a gala fundraiser celebrating 25 years of Virginia Slims' sponsorship of women's tennis. (Both Martina and Billy Jean participated, while Liza Minelli sang and Angela Lansbury emceed). Half a dozen Houston physicians were duped into serving as honorary chairs when they were told the benefit was for AmFAR, with no mention made of the tobacco giant. At least that's what they're saying now. It was incongruous, to say the least, to see the surgeon general's warning about the dangers of smoking just three inches below AmFAR's name on the promotional ads.

I hope that AmFAR Director Merv Silverman, MC, was misquoted in the *Houston Post* when he equated tobacco with other products such as milk and sugar "that can be harmful to some people."

If we momentarily ignore the fact that tobacco kills almost a half million people in the U.S. every year, it is time our community focused on the mounting evidence that smokers with HIV get full blown AIDS much faster than those who are HIV-positive but don't smoke. It is reasonable to conclude that prolonged exposure to secondhand smoke also takes its toll on the immune system.

For Silverman and AmFAR to ignore this information while allowing themselves to be wooed by the tobacco industry does not move us any closer to an end to our pain and suffering. It only sends a mixed message and paints them as hypocrites.

By the way, George Bush was slated to be an honorary chair of this event, but community outrage over his shameful AIDS policy forced the organizers to overlook him. In the same spirit, it's time for our community to resist the co-optation of our events and institutions by the merchants of death.

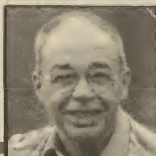
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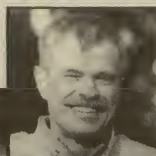


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Letters

Likes Mike and Nancy

Having worked on a newspaper, I know people almost only write when they're pissed off about something. So I wanted to take a moment and instead express my appreciation for two things about the B.A.R. I enjoy: Nancy Boutillier and Michael Botkin. Nancy and Michael, thanks for your thoughtful columns and insightful takes on what's happening both in the media and in the world in general.

Though I sometimes find myself disagreeing with Michael, I always look forward to his delightfully fresh (not to mention twisted) perspectives and breathtaking irreverence. As for Ms. Boutillier, it's nice to read a *thinking individual* in your pages and not the usual types who insist on regaling you with either the "fascinating" details of their personal lives or the same old observations on the same old parade of tired politicians. Should someone interpret this last remark as a dig at others appearing in your paper, so be it!

Two suggestions: how about making Nancy, like Michael, a weekly feature? And, Michael, why not compile your columns into a book like Mike Hippler did? I would buy it!

Soraya Monty
San Francisco

Not Smug

Last year when the U.S. Postal Service announced plans to issue an AIDS Awareness postage stamp on World AIDS Day in December, the *Bay Area Reporter* raised various objections editorially to the plan. Among others, as I recall, you felt that there were so many more important things that the government needed to do to fight the epidemic.

The results of a nationwide poll conducted by the largest U.S. stamp trader newspaper, *Linn's Stamp News*, have just been announced. Each year, Linn's asks stamp collectors nationwide to vote for their favorite stamps in various categories. One of the categories is "Most Important Stamp." The AIDS Awareness stamp was voted the second most important stamp issued by the U.S.P.S. in 1993.

While there is nothing scientific about the poll, it does at least show that among a cross-section of American stamp collectors who participated, the AIDS stamp was rated very highly for the significance of its message and the need for the stamp to be issued.

There is no intention on my part to be smug about this, and in light of your original objections to the stamp, please do not interpret this information as "I told you so;" that is not my objective at all. I simply wanted to let you and your readers know about this poll and to reflect the fact that this seems to indicate the stamp was well received by the general (stamp collector) public.

James Patton
El Cerrito, CA

Paramedics' Rights

In response to the guest opinion of Ruth E. Harlow, J.D., Negative Laws for HIV-positives, in the March 17 issue, the memo on AIDS prosecutions is just as outrageous as we have come to expect from that institution, and should provoke outrage among all decent people.

But Ms. Harlow is way off base in her view of *Indiana v. Haynes*. Frustration and a desire to die have never been appropriate, moral or legal excuses for threatening the lives of others. If a man planning suicide fired a gun into a crowd of rescuers, he would certainly be guilty of attempted murder. In this case, the man consciously and intentionally placed his rescuers at risk, and did so with the clear understanding that they would fear for their lives. The only conceivable debate here is the actual risk assessment of being splashed with HIV-positive blood; but even if that assessment is low, a charge of assault or aggravated assault would be appropriate.

AIDS is a terrible disease and the prejudice and neglect that have accompanied it in this country are a national disgrace. But to threaten to bring this slow and painful death upon others whose only crime is surviving in a profession sworn to save lives, is also reprehensible.

We all cried foul when the paramedics in Philadelphia refused to treat an HIV positive man. In fairness then, we must defend paramedics' right to serve us, to relieve our suffering and to save our lives without being threatened, assaulted or placed in fear for their own lives.

Stuart N. Guinn
Alameda, CA

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We prefer that letters be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten letters will be considered for publication only if clearly legible.

Letters may be edited for length or other appropriate considerations. B.A.R. reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

Lesbian Sorority Women Sought

Thank you for publishing the article by Jim Provenzano regarding the national research study of gay and bisexual men in predominantly heterosexual fraternities (B.A.R., March 18).

Your readers should also know that my research project has been expanded to include a study of the experiences of lesbians and bisexual women in predominantly heterosexual sororities, and there is a need for more women to complete the survey.

A copy of the survey can be obtained by writing to Fraternity Research, P.O. Box 15863, San Diego, CA. 92175.

Douglas Case
San Diego, CA

A Personal Dimension

The feature article written by Paul Bowinckle, B.A.R., Feb. 24, was informative and I am appreciative of your efforts to share my work with our community. However, I wanted to inform your readers of the number one intent of Project Face to Face, that of educating teens about the realities of living with HIV disease and AIDS. For some unknown reason, this was edited out of the original piece.

While on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute's new Experimental Gallery, I was working with Maria Garcia in the Department of Education and we developed HIV and AIDS awareness public programs targeted at teens. Most recently, I spoke with over 1,200 teens at the Portland Museum of Art in Maine and intend to speak to thousands of teenagers during our upcoming national tour, which will begin this fall.

As I travel to each city, I create life masks from the local community and include them in the exhibition. This adds a personal dimension to the exhibit where the public experiences the project as a personal one, rather than an exhibit entirely by and about other people.

The numerous volunteers, advisory board and myself included wish to thank you for clarifying this, the most important goal of Project Face to Face, to your readers.

Jason Dilley, Artist/Educator
San Francisco

Beautify!

Marc Cicurio's outrage over "sweater queens" (Letters, March 3) is curious indeed. Tell me the truth. He wrote it on the back of a discarded menu from some hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant didn't he? I know the type so well: Cheap! Cheap! Cheap!

In my opinion, there's no more important issue facing this community than our appearance — period! And only a fool (that's you, Mr. Cicurio) would argue that the situation hasn't reached the crisis stage in the past few years. Did you know General Assistance offers no help whatsoever with plastic surgery? Some assistance!!! Or that in this country alone, millions of women go to bed at night wearing no eyeshadow?

Mr. Cicurio, our world is a crazy place. We can't make it sane overnight — but we can do everything in our power to Beautify. Beautify. Beautify!

Divina Whatever-LaCoste
San Francisco

Proper Attire

I personally would like to thank Marc Cicurio. His letter, in reply to the Sweater Queen, should be applauded!

There are numerous problems on Castro Street and our "energy" should be addressed to the problems Marc noted in his letter.

Anytime Marc wants to see a *real man*, in a torn tee shirt, torn leather or torn jeans, he could call me!

As for "what is proper" attire for summer — well, Marc has always looked *hot* in his torn cut-offs!

Again, give that Sweater Queen hell! You, Marc, have always been concerned about the "caring" of people, and not what they wear. Love you, Marc. Go for it!

Anthony J. Palma
San Francisco

Please No Change

I just now end trip to San Francisco. I leave sad, but memory of joy and smile in heart. My love in your city now endless.

One day, friend in your city show me newspaper and I enjoy pictures very much and try hard to understand but one puzzle I ask friend to understand me "sweater queen." He tell me this is someone who cares of appearance much large. Your paper make shame of sweater queen.

In Germany, no man care what he appear. (Women do. Not men.) We like very much American clothes or American men. How can you tell clothes are bad thing? I smile in my thought of men in San Francisco for good look. Please no change.

Axel Wolfberg
Aufhausen, Germany

Brown's Beef: Absent Assembly Members

With term limits legislation finally having an impact among legislators in Sacramento, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown was showing annoyance last week with those members of the Assembly who have all but deserted their legislative duties while they are busy running for higher office. Speaker Brown is quietly urging some of those holding prize committee assignments while out on the campaign trail to give up their committee duties so he can prepare some of the Assembly's newer members to take over many of the important committee chairmanships.

Speaking out about those in both major parties who are spending long periods of time away from Sacramento while still hanging onto their committee assignments, Brown, who makes all the committee assignments that "these people don't want to work; I wish they'd quit them [the committees] all because it would give me a chance to put some new people on them to start training sooner."

Aside from voting, committee work is considered lawmakers' most important

assignments except for her chairmanship of the Assembly Education Committee (since that title looks good while she is a candidate for the state education post). Assemblyman Bill Jones of Fresno, who is running for the Republican nomination for secretary of state, quit two of the four committee assignments he held but kept his seat on the Agriculture and the Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials panels — assignments apparently considered important to his farm-based district.

Areias, locked in a race with Alameda County Supervisor Don Perata for the June Demo controller nomination and recognizing that he was away from Sacramento most of the time, said, "I've got [campaign] responsibilities in other parts of the state. It's very difficult to be everywhere in the state, and I've got to focus all my legislative attention on my agricultural agenda."

Meanwhile, in the state Senate, leaders of that body have also been annoyed that the absence rate from committee meetings has been high because of election campaigning, and as with assemblymembers, senators are not quitting their assignments, once Senate source revealed. One longtime state Senate staffer (whose boss is not a candidate for higher office) complained this week that "things are really coming to a standstill around here in both houses — too damned many politicians busy trying to find other jobs to have time to do what they were sent here for in the first place."

Politics and people

Openly gay Massachusetts Representative Gerry Studds has been put in a newly mapped district that excludes his strongest base of support, and he faces a strong GOP opponent this year. Studds, however, is chair of the powerful House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and, despite a well-financed GOP adversary, is expected to win a hard-fought 11th term victory in November.

Speaking of House members, gays and lesbians and their straight friends (Carole Migden, Susan Leal, Tom Nolan, Representatives Nancy



Willie Brown

Pelosi, Lynn Woolsey, and others) are holding a fundraiser/reception Friday, April 8, in San Francisco for pro-gay Representative Dan Hamburg (1st District), who faces a tough primary contest. District 1 runs from Fairfield through Napa and Sonoma counties up to the Oregon border. Hamburg, known in the House as "The Hunk" because of his good looks, has a 100-percent pro-gay voting record, is upfront about his support of gay rights despite coming from a relatively conservative district, and is noted as the only member of Congress who flies the Rainbow Flag outside his Washington office door.

If Hamburg gets past his Democratic primary opponent, he faces an even more conservative Republican in November, and he needs our help. The fundraiser is at 200 Gough Street, 6-8 p.m., April 8, and a \$50 donation is requested. Call 771-1177 for information. I'll see you there!

The party to be seen at on Oscar night in LA was the one given at the Maple Drive restaurant by rocker Elton ("Get it straight, I'm homosexual, not bisexual") John. Everybody who was anybody had to be there, and the event cleared more than \$150,000 for the Elton John AIDS Foundation. John committed himself to an Oscar night party every year "until we no longer have to fight this wretched disease."

State Senator David Roberti is headed for a landslide win in the April 12 recall election engineered against him in the LA area largely by firearms rights advocates. The publicity from the expected big win could

(Continued on page 25)

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Rick Brown: THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

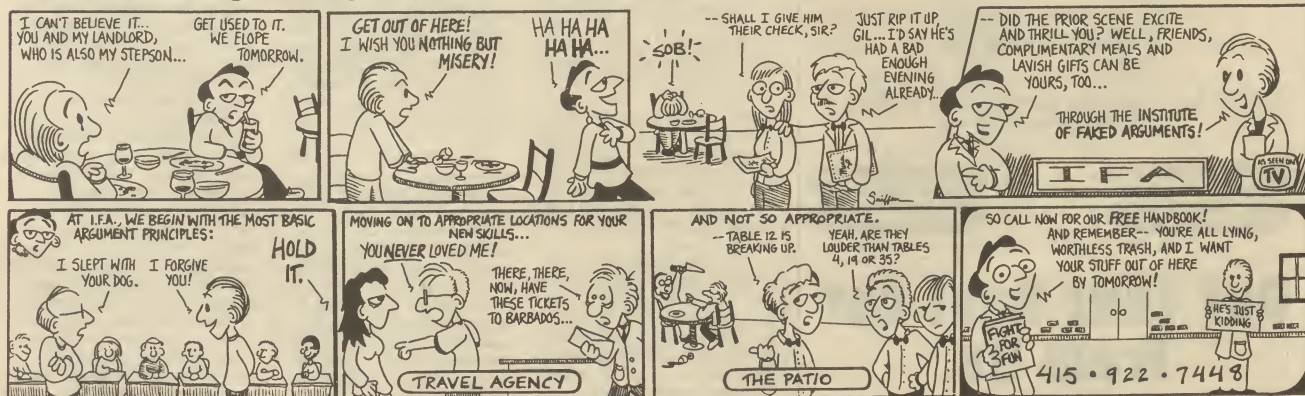
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Juan Palomo: THE HOUSTON POST

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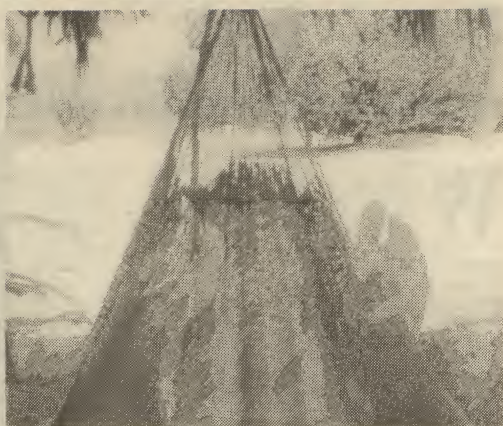
Playing In Playa

by Rachel Pepper

When life gets too stressful, I check out for a while — not with drugs or alcohol, but by traveling. This time I headed off to Mexico's Yucatan to a resort five miles outside of Playa del Carmen, a village about an hour from Cancun, for simply a chance to sit, soak in the sun, swim, snorkel, and slurp down books like oysters.

Far from being some overdeveloped sinkhole of tourism, Kai'Luum is a place to rough it — in style. You sleep in tents right on the beach, tents covered with thatched roofs and equipped only with a bed, a candle, and a hammock hanging out front. There's no electricity, no phones, no real plumbing, and nothing more to do all day than relax. Ah, paradise.

Kai'Luum may not be a gay place, but it sure is gay-friendly. In fact, the Chicago travel agent I use sends dykes down all the time, several of whom were there when I was. The resort can hold about 80 people, and the



Writer at work: B.A.R. columnist and gal about town Rachel Pepper contemplates her toes and the meaning of life on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

(Photo: Rachel Pepper)

questions surround me like fog. What do I do? Where am I from? How did I find out about Kai'Luum, that most revered of resorts? I provide the abridged answers with a forced smile.

"You're so brave to travel alone," one straight woman says, pressing into her husband, who's conveniently parked by her side. I suppose I am a hard package for a happily married hetero gal to grasp: the daring dyke jetting around the world, no hubby to hold her hand. And that's just the way I like it.

Which is not to say that I don't miss my girlfriend. I do. Especially at night when I've had a few beers and a full meal and I want to cuddle up with my favorite queer. But she hates the sun and I adore it, so what are we to do?

In the buff

Because the beach here is so isolated, I am immediately tempted to sunbathe nude. It's a different feeling, this being naked — peeling off your

around, then shooting up over the waves like Flipper. Where are the packs of dolphins said to swim nearby? Can I join them?

All in all, I had a great week. Aside from the small abduction I suffered at the hands of a male cab driver on Cozumel (a whole other story, I'm afraid), I had other more wholesome adventures like horseback riding, watching shooting stars in the night sky, eating home-cooked Mayan meals, and working on my suntan. I read five books in six days, including the brilliant and horrifically stunning *Geek Love*, and started plotting the mystery I want to write by year's end.

All too soon, it was my last night at Kai'Luum. Freshly showered after a whole day in the sun, I crawled into my hammock to let the dusk settle around me. Staring out at the ocean, I watched puffy purple clouds drift lazily by, their half hour of glory soon giving way to a deeper, darker blue. What just moments ago were mere wisps in the sky have thickened into a solid mass of smoky gray. Bordering the water, just below, a pale pink patch of sky stretches along the shore. Underneath, the water's shimmering in the changing light, aquamarine near the shore, black where you strain to see what seems to have no end.

Soon sea and sky melt into the other like a slow bleed, while I sit swinging in my hammock, observing. Perhaps this has been my favorite spot this trip, my hideaway within a hideaway. I've had a chance to lie back and take it all in, no need to rush off anywhere and do anything. A rare thing for any of us, especially me.

Music starts to float my way from the dining tent, the sweet sounds of flute, voice, and guitar. The torches in the sand, which illuminate your path in the darkness, are lit one last time for me. I watch with pleasure as they burst into life from the long flame the fellow carries to ignite them, my own small ceremony marking day's end.

It's truly too dark now to read or write, so I decide to leave my post. The Midwestern dykes have promised to save a table, so I linger a moment more before I go to grab a Dos Equis and some appetizers. The sand, white and silky soft under my feet, cushions me as I curl out of the hammock back onto the earth. I can smell dinner cooking, and whatever delicacy it is this time, I'm sure my last supper here will be delicious. ▼

**I get giddy,
 grabbing handfuls of
 my ass
 underwater
 as I propel
 upwards,
 loving my
 body for the
 first time in
 years.**

swimsuit and standing there in the buff — and quite a change from having those pieces of cloth bind you where you really most want to be free. But no one's around, and it's 95 degrees out. Off it all comes, and the lightness and liberation take hold.

The welcoming water rolls off my skin, as delicious as warm cream. Sparkling peaks adorn the waves, lulling me with a rolling rhythm, an endless chorus of tiny voices only meant for my ears. Plunging in, I felt like one more big fish in the sea. It's such an incredible feeling; I get giddy, grabbing handfuls of my ass underwater as I propel upwards, loving my body for the first time in years. Somersaulting, flipping, twisting

Commentary

week I went, they were at capacity, with about 15 openly gay folks there. A higher percentage than usual, mais oui?

However, though I say "open," I really mean open only to one another. Even though everyone in the whole resort (except me) is there with a lover, I do not see any of the queers kiss, touch, or hold hands the entire time. I guess they don't have the beautiful brassy attitude that we San Franciscans seem to about public displays of affection. I know that in this romantic setting, I'd be mooning all over my girlfriend and not a thing could stop me. Then again, we've only been lovers for a year, and most of these folks have already celebrated 10 years together. See me again in nine years for an update, okay?

During the day, we queers all do our own thing, but we always find one another to sit together at dinner. These folks have some outrageous tales to tell about their lives, and swap stories over cilantro soup, fresh shrimp with pasta, flan, and hot chocolate. Mostly I listen, curious about their lives.

There's a fairy couple who have been together 19 years, two St. Louis dykes who work in public health, a rowdy Kansas City school-teacher in her fifties, some gals from a small Oregon town, and four robust suburban Chicago gals with bad haircuts. Every single one of these people is significantly older than me, and all have been coming to Kai'Luum for more than three years. It's a regular cult kind of thing.

Of course, there are lots of straight people at Kai'Luum, too, and before the queers adopt me, I face my first dinner there alone with them. Not always being the sociable kind as it is, especially when I've just traveled nine hours, this is a harsh fate. Their

Cunning Linguists: Lesbians Wag their Tongues in Berkeley

by Erin Blackwell

This year's Berkeley Women and Language Conference, for the first time in its almost ten-year history, will feature several papers analyzing explicitly lesbian material. Lesbian couples in conversation, lesbian coming-out stories, lesbian identity, and lesbian pornography will all be given the linguistic once-over during a conference session seductively titled "Lesbian Cultural Positions."

"Lesbians have been involved since the creation" of the Berkeley Women and Language Group, according to Mary Bucholtz, a non-lesbian conference co-organizer. Lesbian involvement, however, had not previously translated as lesbian textuality. Only one paper in 1985, and none during the group's second conference in 1992, has represented research on lesbianspeak. Bucholtz said this year's conference had "really worked to get a lot of papers generated around the topic." She went on to stress the "importance for people to get involved in the research."

Promoting research and respectability is what the Berkeley Women and Language Group has been about since its formation in 1985 by a group of graduate students, primarily in linguistics. "The goal was to promote research on language and gender, which still isn't a recognized category within linguistics," said Bucholtz. Lesbians thus have the dubious honor of being nearly invisible figures in an as-yet unrecognized field.

"The field was created in 1975 with the book by Robin Lakoff called *Language and Woman's Place*," according to Bucholtz. "She's a professor in the Berkeley Linguistics Department, and that really inspired a lot of research on the topic." After the feminist field day of the 70s, however, "linguistics has moved in other directions. It's not as socially-oriented as the other social sciences, and we're fighting to make those connections again."

The fact that the conference is organized by students is significant. "Activism has a bad name in the academy and that's not what we're supposed to be doing," explained Bucholtz. "As graduate students we're on the border. We can push for things that as professors maybe we wouldn't be as comfortable doing. We might as well take advantage of our liminal position to push for change that we think is important."

While showing its activist roots, the conference remains true to its academic colors. "I would not sacrifice my research to my political commitments," said Bucholtz. "I don't want to come in with such a bias that it's a foregone conclusion what I'm going to find out. That's really not as hard to balance as it sounds, because we all come in with biases. Being a politically-committed researcher, you just are a little more honest and upfront about your biases than somebody who presents themselves as more objective."

A conference highlight designed to appeal to the aca-

demic, the activist and the lay lesbian reader in all of us is the panel discussion entitled "Gender and Genre," moderated by English lesbian novelist and linguist Ana Livia, currently completing a dissertation on "Pronoun Envy." Featuring the lesbian pulp pioneer Ann Bannon and lesbian mystery writer Mary Wings, the panel also includes African-American science-fiction star Octavia Butler and the multi-genred Dorothy Bryant.

"There's a strand of linguistics which has to do with the application of linguistics to literary texts, which is what I do," said Livia. "And being a novelist as well, I really wanted there to be a panel at the conference where women who were already working as writers would talk about fiction and how linguistics related to their fiction." Panelists will address such novelistic concerns as the verbal styles of butches and femmes, how a dyke can be a private eye, what becomes of gender in outer space and what happens when a woman usurps the male narrative prerogative.

Besides the out lesbian presenters discussing explicit lesbian topics, Livia explained, "A lot of the people presenting are actually lesbians and will bring a lesbian sensibility to what they analyze." conference attendees will just have to guess who they are. "There's an unfortunate fact that the higher up the academic scale you go, the less likely you are to want to say in public that you are, in fact, a lesbian," said Livia. "So quite a few of the professors presenting may be lesbian or gay, but they're not about to say so. So it's like, their students or their friends, or the people who saw them at The Cafe, will know that that's who they are."

As an example of the lesbian sensibility at work on non-lesbian topics, Livia cited Kira Hall's paper, "Bodyless Pragmatics," which investigates the uses of virtual reality. "A lot of the work that's been done on e-mail shows that people started off expecting that because men and women weren't actually physically present, that you wouldn't find the usual differences between the way men and women speak, on a computer," said Livia. "The research that's been done on it mostly shows that, in fact, men and women behave exactly the same way using computers as they do in real life. But Kira Hall's work takes that a bit further because she's looking at the kind of gender identity people are creating on the computer." Rejecting the mainstream masculine/feminine dyad, the lesbian linguist is perhaps more apt to think along gender-creationist, butch/femme lines.

For gender-bending across racial lines, Rusty Barrett's paper on "the appropriation of white women's language by African-American drag queens" sounds promising. "That's a kind of exciting paper because he's looking at what Robin Lakoff laid out as what would possibly be the features of women's lan-



A chip off the old block? Sexologist Susie Bright.

guage," explained Bucholtz, who said Barrett would treat such things as "the very extreme variability of pitch that is associated stereotypically with women and not with men. Looking at RuPaul, I think is one of the people that he looks at, saying, 'Oh, I LOVE that!' — which many women do not do at all, but taking that to extremes is marking yourself as appropriating a particular identity. I think that's one of the more creative approaches that's being taken in the conference."

Anita Liang, a lesbian linguist and conference co-organizer, will analyze the coming-out stories of young gay men in terms of "the public/private dichotomy." Discussing the problematics of being a gay speaker of a straight tongue, Liang explained, "We all need language to survive, yet when gays learn language, when they're socialized, they learn the language that screws them, basically. So they have to overcome this paradox, somehow. You can buy into the values of society and follow those to the logical conclusion. If you do this in a healthful way, then you come out to yourself, but if you don't, then you end up killing yourself or suppressing your feelings, playing at being a heterosexual."

Finally, Liang described how that one-woman media event, Susie Bright, came to be included in the conference, giving a talk on the feminist generation gap. "Somebody brought up the idea, 'Oh, we should have Susie Bright, because she's this like radical,'" said Liang, "but she's a very intelligent, very articulate spokesperson for different sexual lifestyles. Then somebody said, 'She's William Bright's daughter.' William Bright is a pretty famous linguist, very traditional."

Not exactly following in her father's footsteps, "Susie Bright's talk will, as ever, be extremely accessible to anyone," added Bucholtz. "The people who'll find the most problems with that will be the linguists, who haven't really thought a lot about feminist theory and what the consequences are. How what feminists are thinking is going to influence what linguists are doing. That's going to be an eye-opener for linguists in the audience. We're trying to shake everybody up a little bit."

The conference will be held April 8-10 at the Berkeley Conference Center. For registration information, contact the Berkeley Women and Language Group at (510) 642-1316. ▽

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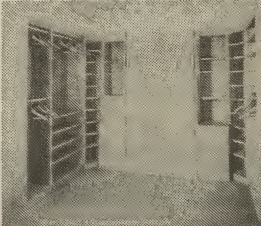
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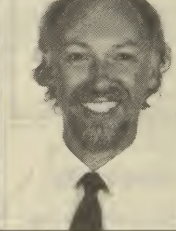
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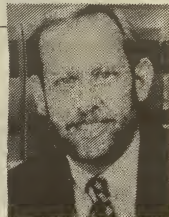
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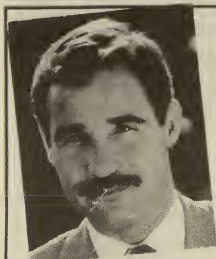
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Community News

PAWS

(Continued from page 1)

never ever tried to pull something like that."

When Lawson failed to get a supportive response from the board after five working days, he hired an attorney who sent the board a letter on March 9, giving it two weeks to respond. The day the letter was received, Cleary scribbled a memo stating, "This letter confirms that through an oversight the policy does not contain bereavement leave; the Exec. Committee of the Board has decided to grant five days bereavement leave and we hope this clears this up."

Lawson's physician later put him on disability for six weeks. Lawson says his understanding is that he still has a job until the conditions set out in his letter are met, including payment for pain and harassment on bereavement leave. The request prompted PAWS Vice President Jeff Stryker (not the porn star) to publicly refer to Lawson as "that little extortionist." Cleary, Lewis, and Philipson have all said Lawson will not be returning.

Lawson is worried and saddened by the turn of events. Finding a new job with new health insurance is difficult for someone with a pre-existing condition of AIDS. "I thought I'd be at PAWS until that last day I was on my feet. I had a real hard time over what to do about this — to walk away or to take it," Lawson says. "But I learned some things about dignity and courage from Scotty. ... Every one of the clients had Scotty's face to me."

"I know it looks like I'm a queen with a vendetta who wants to destroy the organiza-

tion, but that's not it at all. I was careful to tell my volunteers that I believe that what's happening is wrong, but I'm not asking anybody to leave this organization. I cried when I had to leave. I want to see it doing what it's supposed to do."

Lawson's work is described as "stellar" by former board president Smith, an assessment echoed by every volunteer the B.A.R. spoke with. Lawson's assessment of Cleary, however, was not so shining. "I found Maryanne homophobic — not in the visible, I-spit-on-your-grave way, but in a condescending, you-people-are-like-children way."

"I've sensed a good deal of discomfort in Maryanne around gay people, a lack of comfort with the idea of being

many of whom had been recruited by Lawson, have left. But when a volunteer later offered his services as driver, coordinator, or whatever was needed to keep food deliveries running, Cleary told him that it was not his place to take that kind of responsibility. She added that she hoped that this volunteer would stay on, but that she was worried he was part of "the Nancy-Chuck sub-culture."

The volunteer, who wishes to remain anonymous, says he does not want to take sides in any dispute, just to get PAWS up and running again. "Personalities are not important to me," he told the B.A.R. "Only seeing clients who are in pain, having the little love they have left in their life taken away from them by silly individual politics — that sickens me."

Regarding food delivery right now, Cleary says, "I didn't get a lot of cooperation on getting the resources I'd need to just jump in and deliver. Since that happened we've made food available. The formal services are being revamped. It isn't true that many people are not able-bodied enough to come in — our surveys demonstrate that, and they have come in to get food."

"People's friends can come."

Says Board President Lewis, "I don't think we can accomplish anything by delivering food." He adds that PAWS won't let any pet go hungry, but it used to be a point of pride at PAWS that no delivery had been missed since 1987. When asked if that were still the case, Lewis and Philipson refused to comment.

As it stands now, only 14 percent of the agency's income goes toward pet food and vet services; ten percent goes to fundraising, while personnel accounts for over 50 percent. In line with the new penny-pinching, Cleary claimed that there was no money for staff raises — but she gave herself a \$5,000 raise in December, approved by the board, after only three months on the job. Board members have refused comment on this issue.

PAWS currently lives off of the \$90,000 remaining from a \$150,000 bequest. Failure to participate in community fundraisers has lost money, visibility, and volunteers.

"Who can refuse AIDS and puppies?" asks one knowledgeable fundraiser. "It sells itself. There is no reason for PAWS to be hurting financially."

Although one of the board's primary two responsibilities is fundraising, members have not been raising or even giving money. A policy adopted by the board in 1992 recommends that board members each contribute \$1,000, but that has not happened for several years. Only two board members showed up for the Board Work Day, and now, with the warehouse shut down, board members have refused to make any deliveries themselves.

The PAWS board lacks any direct involvement in the organization. There are no clients on the board; in fact, there are no PWAs or HIV-positive people on the board. There are no criteria for board membership; members are nominated to the board by the board.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m., at the PAWS office at 539 Castro Street. Further information about the meeting is available from Cleary at 241-1460. ▼

**"I don't think
we can
accomplish
anything by
delivering
food."**

— Board President
Ron Lewis

"PAWS Restructures Its Services"

A Press Release Received by the B.A.R. on March 28

"1993 and 1994 has been a time of struggle, growth and change in the organization of Pets Are Wonderful Support. The Board of Directors constituted primarily by members of the gay community has met and continues to meet the challenges inherent in the survival of any organization that has existed and served its community in substantial ways for seven years."

The transitions that we face are those that all of the presently successful AIDS organizations have bridged in the last two to four years. These transitions include diversification of staff and clients, the movement from grassroots organizational structure to professionalization, the development and maintenance of strong partnerships within the HIV community and the mainstream culture and meeting the strong challenges posed by a sophisticated and competitive fundraising environment.

The purpose of engaging in these transformational processes is to assure future, more effective and efficient services for our burgeoning client population who look to PAWS for increased and longer term services. At PAWS the movement from a relatively isolated grassroots entity has created some uncertainty, instability and conflict among its varied constituencies. It has also created unintended consequences and bad feelings among those persons who do not agree with the approved plans of the Board of Directors designated to create organizational change.

In light of the foregoing, there have been many staff changes at PAWS in the last six to nine months. Though the necessary departures and closures are difficult, we must always focus on our organizational vision and the responsibility that we have to the PAWS donor to insure their faith and trust in the realization of the PAWS mission.

Recent staff and related volunteer departures have caused PAWS to temporarily cancel our pet food services. We are doing the best we can to design and provide interim services. With the assistance of our volunteer teams PAWS will institute a Pet Food Bank in early April. Clients or friends of clients may come to PAWS on Friday afternoons or Saturday mornings to select the pet food and care products. Client needs that cannot be addressed by this new system will be considered and handled separately.

PAWS is deeply invested in the protection and nurturance of the human-animal bond. It is our desire that each client experience the beneficial psychological and medical effects of the relationship with their pet. Times of change can create some confusion and disruption however, the community can be assured that PAWS will continue to focus its resources and influence to demonstrate this commitment."

Community News



How are you going to keep them in San Francisco when they've seen this: the main drag of Ovett, Mississippi, USA? (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Spirit Sisters Come to S.F.

by Marghe Covino

The pressure doesn't let up for Wanda and Brenda Henson as they prepare for their whirlwind trip to San Francisco this weekend. Wanda is taking midterms, Brenda has had to take a sabbatical. Both women are emotionally battered from being approached everywhere, even on campus, where people frequently come up to them, either to threaten violence and death or to hug them. "We just have to be on guard all the time," Wanda said.

Wanda said they are overjoyed to be coming to San Francisco from Ovett, Mississippi, but are also "scared to death." Both realize they may be over-reacting but have learned that "there are a lot of crazy people out there." The death threat received by their attorney, David Daniels, earlier this week accounts for some of their anxiety. They spent Monday and Tuesday in meetings with the F.B.I. and the pressure mounts.

Both women are looking forward to meeting Ken McPherson, who hosts the program *Hibernia Beach* on radio station LIVE 105. Ken has teamed up with attorney Alison Gude and Sacramento's Lucy Galindo and others as the "Camp Sister Spirit Defense Committee." Sister Spirit supporters are raising money, for either a generator or the golf carts needed to patrol camp property, and will be fundraising at the corner of 18th and Castro on both Saturday and Sunday. Wanda and Brenda themselves will be in the LIVE 105 Camp Sister Spirit booth from 1 to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Gude is hoping to find sponsors for a three-month trip back to Mississippi where she will assist in camp defense, building projects, and legal research.

On Tuesday, Wanda was still worried about the attorney, Daniels. "He can't keep doing this by himself," she told B.A.R. "He's going to have to give up his regular practice because these people keep filing nuisance suits and they will win them in the local courts in Mississippi, so we have to take them up to another level. That takes time and money. We need some le-

gal help from our national organizations but we can't afford to lose him either — he's too important to us," Wanda said.



Brenda and Wanda Henson. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

What legal system?

As an example of the bizarre happenings with the Mississippi legal system, Wanda said that the case against the man accused of shooting at Pam, one of Camp Sister Spirit's caretakers, was reduced to a charge of disturbing the peace. Pam was forced to make a citizen's arrest at the suspect's home because the police "couldn't locate him," and the arresting officer who took the man's statement didn't show up in court for the hearing. Court officials accusingly asked Pam where the officer was. "The prosecutor hadn't even made the effort to see that an official witness was present and then tried to make Pam, the victim, responsible for his not being present," Wanda said.

The suspect, whose wife and mother were both at the bench talking to the judge, said aloud in court, "You're letting them jack off all over me." Wanda said, "Can you imagine anyone saying something like that in a courtroom, in front of his wife and mother and all of us women, and not even being reprimanded for it?"

As she continues to try to fathom the depths of the ha-

tred being leveled against them, Wanda also related a ray of hope: a meeting with "an old, old woman."

"The old woman came up to me and held on to my hand and stood real close to me," she told the B.A.R., "and she told me, 'I want to tell you, I think this is nothing about you or what you are, it's about that you're women and you own your own property and are independent and they flat don't like it.' She told me she had come to Ovett over 53 years ago and that she is still an outsider and is still being menaced by men trying to intimidate her on her own land. That's what makes this such a feminist issue — things like that."

Wanda's good humor returned as she discussed new fundraising techniques. One that is especially popular is a plan to paint the names of donors on the newly-erected fence around Camp Sister Spirit: a way to stand up and be counted.

Wanda laughed as she remembered the plans she and Brenda had when they first planned to buy Camp Sister Spirit. "We planned to sell Life Leases on 20 acres of the property at \$5,000 an acre," she said. "People could lease their acre, build a vacation home or come and camp, or whatever they wanted to do, and we would raise the capital to renovate the rest of the property. Needless to say there hasn't exactly been a land rush here. It's like trying to sell vacation property in Beirut."

However, the irrepressible McPherson loves the idea and says, "We can spin this a little we can tell people to sign up to get a 'Piece of The Spirit' and sell them a bag of genuine Camp Sister Spirit soil with their own deed — get back to me later, I'm gonna work on this..."

The Cafe, on Market near Castro, will hold a benefit for Camp Sister Spirit March 31, at 7:30pm. Donations of any amount are appreciated. 861-3846.

The Hensons will speak at a benefit for Camp Sister Spirit, April 2, 7:30pm, at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Tickets are \$5-25. 330-5310. ▼

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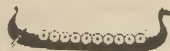
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California News

Religious Right Moves To Control California Board of Ed

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — The legislative hearing room was nearly full at the Wednesday, March 16 Assembly Education Committee hearing on the now controversial high school test known as the California Learning Assessment System (CLAS), as emotions and accusations — ran rampant. The fight that now rages in Sacramento for the hearts and — especially — the minds of California's students is the same one that has been raging in local school districts for several years and promises to escalate in years to come.

At the Capitol, educators argued that "this is not a matter of morality but development of critical thinking skills." Still others see the right wing religionists as attempting to create an underclass, a potential low-paid workforce capable only of limited thinking. Radical religious right proponents like Beverly Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) say they are concerned with parents' rights, privacy issues, and the evils engendered by children being encouraged to talk about their innermost feelings.

The Wednesday hearing fell along partisan lines.

Staff insiders predict a spate of new education bills: some will attempt to strengthen the security and confidentiality of the test and others will attempt to make the test illegal.

For three years similar battles have been raging across the state, most notably in San Diego's Vista school district. After a six-hour marathon meeting last week, replete with threats of recall and acrimonious behavior, the conservative-dominated board voted to replace the current abstinence-based sex education program, "Values and Choices," with "Sex Respect," which handles gender, medical issues, and religious values in a controversial and potentially illegal manner. "Sex Respect" is an all-abstinence, no contraception curriculum that teaches nothing about puberty, human development, reproduction, and pregnancy, while depicting sex, contraception, and abortion as evils.

The conservative majority on the board, bypassing its

own board counsel, hired David Llewellyn, a conservative activist lawyer and founder of the Western Center for Law and Religious Freedom, to review the program — at \$125 an hour — and make suggestions on how to bring it into compliance with state law, after the school district's law firm said in a preliminary opinion that "Sex Respect" violates the state education code, and possibly even the state Constitution.

Closer to home, the Woodland school district is recovering from an intense battle over the school textbooks "Impressions." A pitched battle arose when the religious right made accusations that "witchcraft" and "Satanism" were being promulgated by the texts.

**A woman
with children
in a parochial
school
in Roseville
is demanding
public schools
in Rocklin
get rid of
sex education.**

According to an informed source, among the nine candidates for two vacant seats on the Washington Unified school district board in West Sacramento, at least one is believed to be a right wing "stealth" candidate. "It's taken 15 long years of struggle to get rid of the 'old guard' and to just begin to turn this school district around," she said, "and if the wrong people get elected all of our efforts will go right down the tubes."

Several school districts in Sacramento already have conservative religionist board members. Some board members in the Sacramento and the Robla district are afraid the conservatives are lying in wait until like-minded others are elected so they can start the now-familiar battles over library censorship, textbooks, creationism, sex education, and other issues in the ideological litany.

In Rocklin, Sandy Moore,

a parent, and Camille Maben, a school board member, are currently coping with accusations and battles engendered by a woman whose children are in a parochial school in Roseville, but who insists the Rocklin district get rid of Outcome-Based Education and sex education.

Maben said, "I have repeatedly asked this woman who or what she represents and what it is she expects our board to do about her demands. She has repeatedly told me that she does not belong to any group or organization and is not espousing any ideology. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the hearing room at the Capitol and saw her sitting with Beverly Sheldon of the TVC."

Jerry Sloan, co-founder of Project Tocsin, a group that researches the political activity of the Christian right, said, "This is just the beginning of trouble for Sacramento area schools. It should also be a red flag for people in the gay and lesbian community."

"Just the array of highly funded conservative organizations involved in these issues, like TVC, Concerned Women for America, the Western Center for Law and Religious Freedom, Eagle Forum, and Capitol Resource Institute should let you know the importance of the schools. These are the same people who have been involved in one way or another in with the anti-gay state initiatives. Ordinary people, gay parents and progressive groups are going to have to take at least as much interest in the schools as the 'religious Reich' — we've got to study the candidates and get out there and vote or we're going to lose an entire generation — to say nothing of the entire public school system."

Sloan observed that many gays and lesbians have almost "given up" on the schools. "We act like we have no business to conduct with the schools or on school boards," Sloan said, "and we definitely do. We're parents, we're taxpayers, and we have the right to ensure protections for gay, lesbian, and bi students as well as teachers."

"We also have the right to see that students are not taught to be bigots and are not taught misinformation and hatred against our community." ▼

L.A. Schools to 14-Year-Old: Do Not Wear Your Rubbers

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — A 14-year-old girl filed a lawsuit against the Los Angeles Unified School District Friday, March 18, contending it wrongly disciplined her for wearing condoms on her clothes to promote safe sex.

The federal civil rights suit, filed by Astrianna Johnson and the American Civil Liberties Union, contends that the school district violated Johnson's right to free

speech and self-expression.

Officials at Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School in Los Angeles have prohibited the girl from wearing pack-aged condoms on her clothes and shoes four times. The suit also claims that the school sent her home for a full day, saying her behavior was "distasteful to the administration."

School district spokesman Bill Rivera defended school administrators' actions, saying they "believed it [the con-

doms] would cause a severe disruption at school." Officials had not yet seen the lawsuit.

Johnson said she has worn the condoms to try to raise awareness among her classmates about the need for protection from HIV, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases.

She said the condoms reflect her concern about teenage sexual responsibility, and are not a trendy fashion statement. ▼

Texas's Bored of Education

...So It Will Intentionally Misinform Its Own Children

by Kimberly Griffin

Rather than submit to a demand to delete vital information from a health education textbook—including toll-free telephone numbers of gay and lesbian groups, and stick drawings depicting correct testicular cancer self-examination procedures—textbook publisher Holt, Rinehart and Winston has withdrawn from a \$7.5 million purchasing process in Texas.

In a letter to the Texas Education Agency, company President William Talkington wrote that beyond the economic infeasibility of making nearly 100 changes in the text, "some of the mandated revisions are in opposition to the fundamental philosophy of our program and are potentially injurious to the students in Texas. We simply cannot produce a product that does not provide children with adequate instruction on life-threatening issues."

The Texas Board of Education had been working with materials from five publishers to adopt new health texts for high school districts in the state. The board, comprised of 15 appointed members, recently sent the texts back to the publishers along with about 400 revision requests that would strip references to condoms, homosexuality, and teenage suicide among other things.

After months of hearings at which anti-abortion, religious right, and pro-gay groups debated the texts' contents, the board also requested additions to the texts that discuss the state's sodomy law (even though it was recently ruled unconstitutional by a state appellate court) and that stress abstinence.

"What they're doing is anti-education," said Suzy Wa-

gers, executive director of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, a gay rights group that was involved in the hearings. "I'm thrilled Holt said forget it. I'm glad somebody had the guts to stand up and say, 'we are in the business of manufacturing textbooks, which are tools of education.'"

None of the other four

"I didn't think this stuff should be part of the public schools."

— Monte S. Hasie, Texas Board of Ed

textbook publishers has expressed opposition to making the revisions, said Della May Moore, a Texas Education Agency spokeswoman.

Peter Farwell, vice president of Holt's owner, Harcourt General Inc., said that economics were a compelling factor in withdrawing from the textbook purchasing process. In making the changes, Holt would have restricted the market for the 700-page book to Texas only.

"In addition, we had concerns about what making changes would do to the quality of the health book itself, in terms of meeting the needs of students today," said Farwell, who would not discuss specifically which revisions the company opposed.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said members of her group would continue monitoring the textbook purchasing process, trying to do all they can to stall it.

"What they're proposing to

take out of these books is criminal," said Hardy-Garcia, whose group worked closely with openly gay state Representative Glenn Maxey (D-Austin) during the hearings on the texts. "It's beyond condom distribution and beyond gay hotlines: It's preposterous all the way around."

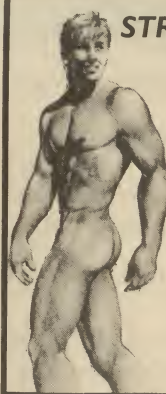
Monte S. Hasie, a member of the state Board of Education, told *The New York Times* he considered the Holt textbook unacceptable.

"I didn't think this stuff should be part of the public schools," he said. "They were promoting homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle and promoting sex as being OK if you use a condom."

The main problem faced by pro-choice and gay rights groups working with the board of education, Hardy-Garcia said, is that it has become "infiltrated by the radical right."

"What has happened in general is that we have not paid as much attention to who's going into those positions because we've been caught up in other things," Hardy-Garcia said. After scoring a major victory last September in Austin when the City Council passed domestic partner insurance benefits for municipal employees, gay rights groups are currently mobilizing to prepare for a May 7 ballot initiative that may lead to the measure's repeal.

"[The religious right is] here, and they ain't going away any time soon," Wagers said. "They really have it together."▼



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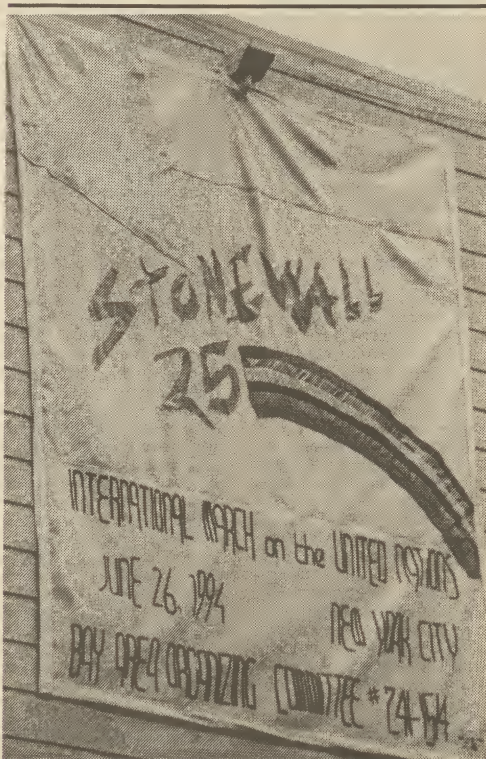
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Health News

Have You Rubbed Your Testicles Lately? You Should.

by I.A. Kisselman

When the Texas Board of Education demanded the removal of pictures of proper testicular self-examination procedures from a textbook last month, it denied students information about one of the more common cancers to occur in young men between the ages of 15 and 34 — but the disease also occurs in other age groups, so all men should be aware of its symptoms.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), most testicular cancers are found by men themselves, by accident or when doing testicular self-examination. Ironically, in the Texas case, the target age of the textbook exactly corresponds with the age the disease typically develops; it is when, frankly, most young men are already feeling their testicles on a regular basis, but without knowing there is a medical need to do so.

The NCI says every post-pubescent male can improve his chance of finding a tumor — and therefore surviving the disease — by doing testicular self-examination every month, as women are urged to do breast self-exams. Testicular self-exams are best undertaken after a warm bath or shower, when the heat has relaxed the scrotum, making it easier to find anything unusu-

al. The procedure itself is simple and takes only a few minutes:

- Stand in front of a mirror. Look for any swelling on the skin of the scrotum.

- Examine each testicle with both hands. The index and middle fingers should be placed under the testicle while the thumbs are placed on the top. Gently roll the testicle between the thumbs and fingers. It's normal for one testicle to be larger than the other.

- Find the epididymis (the soft, tubelike structure at the back of the testicle that collects and carries the sperm). Do not mistake the epididymis for an abnormal lump.

If you find a lump, contact your doctor right away. Most lumps are found on the sides

therapy.

Chemotherapy may be given by mouth or by injection into a muscle or a blood vessel. Chemotherapy is a systemic (rather than local) treatment — the drugs enter the bloodstream and reach cells all over the body. Depending on the specific drugs and the patient's general condition, chemotherapy may be taken as an outpatient, at the hospital, at the doctor's office, or at home. Sometimes, however, the person must be hospitalized for a time, so the effects of the treatment can be watched.

Side effects of treatment

Many men worry that losing a testicle will affect their ability to have sex or make them sterile. But a man with one healthy testicle can still have a normal erection and produce sperm, so an operation to remove just one testicle does not make a patient impotent and seldom interferes with fertility. Men can also have an artificial testicle, called a prosthesis, placed in the scrotum, with the weight and feel of a normal testicle.

Radiation therapy affects both normal and cancerous cells, but normal cells are able to recover. Having treatments five days a week for several weeks spreads out the total dose of radiation and gives the patient weekend rest breaks. Nevertheless, the body must work very hard during radiation therapy to repair the tissues injured by the treatment. Patients may feel unusually tired, and they should try to rest as much as possible. Radiation therapy does not change the ability to have sex, only with sperm production.

Other unpleasant effects of radiation therapy include diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. These problems can usually be controlled with medication. Also, there may be skin reactions in the area being treated, and it is important to treat the skin gently. Lotions and creams should not be used on these areas without the doctor's advice.

Chemotherapy causes side effects because it damages not only cancer cells, but other rapidly growing cells as well. Often anti-cancer drugs are given in cycles; treatment periods alternate with rest periods. The side effects of chemotherapy depend on the specific drugs that are given and the response of the individual patient. These drugs commonly affect hair cells, blood-forming cells, and cells that line the digestive tract. As a result, they may cause various problems, including hair loss, lowered resistance to infection, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, and mouth sores.

Most men who receive chemotherapy for testicular cancer can continue to function sexually, although some anti-cancer drugs interfere with sperm production. Although this effect is permanent for some patients, many recover their fertility later on. Loss of appetite can be a serious problem for patients receiving radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

The side effects of cancer therapy vary from person to person and may even be different from one treatment to

The surgeon does not remove just a part of the testicle, because if the problem is cancer, cutting through the outer layer of the testicle might cause local spread of the disease.

of the testicle, but some appear on the front. Remember that testicular cancer is highly curable, especially when treated promptly.

Testicular cancer can cause a number of symptoms besides lumps. Other warning signs to should watch for are:

- Any enlargement of a testicle;
- A feeling of heaviness in the scrotum;
- A dull ache in the lower abdomen or the groin;
- A sudden collection of fluid in the scrotum;
- A pain or discomfort in a testicle or in the scrotum; and
- Enlargement or tenderness of the breasts.

These symptoms are not sure signs of cancer. They can also be caused by other conditions. However, it is important to see a doctor if any of these symptoms lasts as long as two weeks. Any illness should be diagnosed and treated as soon as possible. Early diagnosis of testicular cancer is especially important because the sooner cancer is found and treated, the better a man's chance for complete recovery.

The NCI also says that while regularly-performed testicular self-examination is an important health habit, it can't suspect that undetected cancer cells remain in the body after surgery or irradiation. The use of anti-cancer drugs following surgery for early stage cancer is known as adjuvant



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the next. Patients may find not substitute for a physician's examination.

Testicular cancer diagnosis

When a man's symptoms suggest that there might be cancer in a testicle, the doctor will ask about his personal and family medical history and do a complete physical exam. In addition to checking general signs of health (temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and so on), the doctor will carefully examine the scrotum. Also, the patient will usually have a chest x-ray and blood and urine tests. If the physical exam and lab tests do not show an infection or another disorder, the doctor is likely to suspect cancer because most tumors in the testicles are cancer.

The only sure way to know whether cancer is present is for a pathologist to examine a sample of tissue under a microscope. To obtain the tissue, the affected testicle is removed through the groin. This operation is called inguinal orchiectomy. The surgeon does not cut through the scrotum and does not remove just a part of the testicle because, if the problem is cancer, cutting through the outer layer of the testicle might cause local spread of the disease.

The most common types of testicular cancer are seminoma and non-seminoma:

- Seminomas make up about 40 percent of all cases.

- Non-seminomas are actually a group of cancers, including choriocarcinoma, embryonal carcinoma, teratoma, and yolk sac tumors.

Each of these two major types of testicular cancer grows and spreads differently — and they are treated differently. Fortunately, testicular cancer is almost always curable if it is found early and responds well to treatment, even if it has spread to other parts of the body.

Patients can be treated with surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, singly or in a combination.

Surgery

In most cases, surgery is done to remove the testicle. Sometimes it also is necessary to remove lymph nodes in the abdomen. In addition, tumors that have spread to other parts of the body may be partly or entirely removed by surgery.

When testicular cancer spreads, the cancer cells are carried by blood or by lymph, an almost colorless fluid produced by tissues all over the body. The fluid passes through lymph nodes, which filter out bacteria and other abnormal substances such as cancer cells. Surgery may be recommended to remove the lymph nodes deep in the abdomen. A pathologist then examines the nodes to see whether they contain cancer cells. For patients with non-seminoma, removing the nodes helps stop the spread of their disease. Seminoma patients do not need this surgery because cancer cells in their lymph nodes can be destroyed with radiation therapy.

Surgery to remove the lymph nodes does not change a man's ability to have an erection or an orgasm, but the operation can cause sterility because it interferes with ejaculation. Some men recover the ability to ejaculate without treatment; others may be

helped by medication. Patients should talk with the doctor about the possibility of removing the lymph nodes using a special surgical technique that may protect the ability to ejaculate.

Radiation and chemotherapy

In radiation therapy (also called x-ray therapy, radiotherapy, cobalt treatment, or irradiation), high-energy rays are used to damage cancer cells and stop their growth. Like surgery, radiation therapy is a local treatment; it affects only the cells in the treated area. The patient usually receives radiation therapy as an outpatient.

Seminomas are highly sensitive to radiation. Following surgery, men with seminomas generally have radiation therapy to their abdominal lymph nodes.

Non-seminomas are somewhat less sensitive to radiation. Patients with this type of cancer usually have other types of treatment.

The use of drugs to treat cancer, called chemotherapy, is recommended when there are signs that the cancer has spread or when the doctor that they are less interested in sexual activity if they are tired or feel ill.

Cause and prevention

Researchers study patterns of cancer in the population to discover whether some people are more likely than others to get certain cancers. If they can learn what causes the disease, they may be able to suggest ways to prevent it.

Although any man can get testicular cancer, the disease is rare. It accounts for only about one percent of all cancers in American men. Although most other cancers affect mostly older people, testicular cancer usually occurs in young men. It is more common in white men than in black.

Doctors do not know exactly what causes testicular cancer. They can seldom explain why one person gets it while another doesn't, but research does show that some men are more likely to develop it. For example, the risk is higher than average for boys born with their testicles in the lower abdomen rather than in the scrotum. The cancer risk for boys with this condition (called undescended testicles or cryptorchidism) is increased if the problem is not corrected in early childhood. Research has also shown that testicular cancer is sometimes linked to certain other rare conditions in which the testicles do not develop normally.

Some men whose mothers took a hormone called DES (diethylstilbestrol) during pregnancy to prevent miscarriage have testicular abnormalities. But scientists do not know whether prenatal exposure to DES (or any other female hormone) increases the risk of testicular cancer.

Some patients with testicular cancer have a history of injury to the scrotum. But no one knows whether such an injury can actually cause cancer. Many doctors think such an injury simply calls attention to a tumor that was already growing.

Follow-up care

Regular follow-up exams are very important for anyone treated for testicular cancer. If cancer does recur it is very important for the doctor



Everybody do the testicle roll! It's fun (if you do it right) and could be a lifesaver as well. See previous page for instructions.

to detect it right away and start additional treatment.

Follow-up care may vary for different types and stages of testicular cancer. Generally, patients are checked and have blood tests to measure tumor marker levels every month for the first two years after treatment. They also have regular x-rays and scans. After that, checkups may be needed just once or twice a year. Testicular cancer seldom recurs after a patient has been free of the disease for three years.

Patients who have been treated for cancer in one testicle have about a one percent chance of developing cancer in the remaining one. If cancer does arise in the second testicle, it is nearly always a new disease rather than a metastasis from the first tumor. Pa-

tients should be checked regularly by their doctor and should continue to do testicular self-examination every month. Any unusual symptoms should be reported to the doctor without delay. As with the patient's first cancer, the earlier a new tumor is detected and treated, the greater the chance of cure.

Clinical trial alert

Patients with testicular cancer are encouraged by the NCI to consider participating in a clinical trial. The NCI booklet *What Are Clinical Trials All About?* is available for patients who may be interested in taking part in clinical research. Another way to learn about clinical trials is through PDQ, a computerized resource of cancer treatment informa-

tion. Developed by NCI, PDQ contains an up-to-date list of trials all over the country. Doctors can obtain an access code and use a personal computer to get PDQ information, or they can use the services of a medical library.

Also, the Cancer Information Service (CIS) can provide PDQ information to doctors, patients, and the public. CIS is a program of NCI that provides nationwide telephone service for cancer patients and their families and friends, the public, and health care professionals. The staff can answer questions and can send booklets about cancer. They also know about local resources and services. One toll-free number, 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237), connects callers all over the country with the office that serves their area. Spanish-speaking staff members are available.

Finally, the American Cancer Society supports research, conducts educational programs, and offers many services to patients and their families. It also provides free booklets on testicular cancer and on sexuality. To request booklets or to learn about services and activities in local areas, call the ACS's toll-free number, 1-800-ACS-2345 (1-800-227-2345), or (415) 394-7100, visit the offices at 235 Montgomery Street in San Francisco, or write to 1599 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329. ▼

The information in this article was furnished by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the pamphlet "What You Need to Know About Testicular Cancer."

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Delavirdine

HIVCare is conducting two studies of the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor Delavirdine (U-90, BHAP). The first study is seeking HIV+ volunteers with from 200-500 CD4 T-cells and fewer than 6 months of prior AZT (no other prior antivirals allowed). The second study seeks HIV+ volunteers with fewer than 300 CD4 T-cells and fewer than 4 months prior ddI (unlimited prior AZT allowed). Potential participants are urged to call soon, as these are very popular studies.

For more information about these and other studies contact Mark Bowers at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde Street, San Francisco 94109.

National News

Rep "Outs" Rep in Contentious Debate of Homosexuality, Education

by Bob Roehr

The latest attack on gays and lesbians came in the U.S. House of Representatives, with an amendment offered by Mel Hancock (R-MO) to renew the harmless-sounding Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Nothing about Hancock's attempt was harmless, according to gay rights activists.

The broadly-worded proposal would have withheld federal money from any school district with instruction, counseling, or student referral programs that have "either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality."

A vaguer substitute amendment, put forward by Jolene Unsoeld (D-Wa), was adopted in its place, on Thursday, March 24, by a vote of 224-194. It prohibits using federal funds to distribute "obscene material to minors on school grounds." It also reaffirms local, rather than federal, control over school curricula.

Two weeks earlier, Barney Frank (D-MA) had optimistically told a group of lesbian and gay elected officials, "In the old days — meaning five years ago — we would have been looking for a kind of slip-side around this [on procedural issues]. I think we are ready to take this one head-on because it is so stupid."

He called the amendment so broadly-worded that "anybody who counsels a gay kid would be in trouble." But he also observed that it was clearly aimed at projects such as the Harvey Milk School in New York City, Project 10 programs in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and other programs established by school systems for gay youth.

What happened during the intervening period was a major push in favor of the Hancock amendment by the extreme right. A news conference by Lou Sheldon and the Traditional Values Coalition capped the activities March 21. Hancock and Mary Cummings, New York City school board member and anti-gay leader, also participated.

As pressure from the right mounted, proposed opposition to the Hancock amendment by Steve Gunderson (R-WI) and William Goodling (R-PA), ranking Republican on the education committee, simply collapsed.

Tanya Domi, chief lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was told that Goodling was "pretty outraged" by Hancock's action. She feels that he and Goodling "were really getting knuckled hard by the Republicans" to toe what had become the unofficial party line.

She calls the collapse "basically wimpy leadership," but acknowledges both the pressures on Goodling and the fact that in the end his vote did not decide the outcome. Frank gives it a more partisan spin, labeling it "the phenomena of a ranking Republican having to protect his ass."

Jolene Unsoeld was then recruited to introduce an amendment to blunt the worst elements of the Hancock amendment. The far

right countered by labeling the Unsoeld proposal "a vote for taxpayer-funded homosexuality."

"Once they laid it down like that, the vote became critical," says Gregory King, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

"If you adopt the Hancock amendment by itself, it has the effect of prohibiting school counseling and guidance," said Gunderson during floor debate. "How many kids do we have to kill before we have the courage to stand up and say it's time [to] educate them and do what's right, not what is politically popular?"

The most contentious part of the debate occurred when Robert Dornan (R-CA), perhaps the most rabidly anti-gay member of the House, attacked fellow Republican Gunderson for his opposition to the Hancock amendment. Dornan "outed" him for the — mostly open — secret of Gunderson's sexual orientation.

"He has a revolving door on his closet," said Dornan of Gunderson, supposedly quoting Gunderson's own wife. "He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out, he's in. I guess you're out because you went up and spoke to a huge homosexual dinner, Mr. Gunderson."

The display brought such rebuke from others in the House Dornan finally agreed to have the comments stricken from the record. Thus, the proceedings were broadcast to the nation over C-SPAN, will be found on videotape, and appeared in print accounts, but officially will not exist, as they will not appear in *The Congressional Record*.

"I think that Dornan made it clear that he hates gay people, whether in the closet of proudly open. And his hatred helped pass the Unsoeld amendment," said King.

Domi noted that Gunderson had been "inching his way out of the closet for some time." She cited his speech on the floor of the House last year on the military issue, his keynote speech to an HRCF dinner in Baltimore earlier this month, and the fact he took his male partner to an official White House dinner, all of which had been previously reported in the press.

"Dornan taking potshots at him about his sexual orientation on the floor of the House was going to happen," says Domi. "I think it would have been in his best interest to have been more pro-active with respect to that personal issue."

Gunderson's press secretary, Kevin Kennedy, dismissed the attack as "one of those things that isn't dignified with an answer."

"A bipartisan majority of Congress rejected the anti-gay rhetoric and threats [of the radical right]," is the way HRCF interpreted the vote in its press release. That is true, but it does not hide the fact that it split largely along party lines: Democrats supported the Unsoeld amendment (196-55), GOPs opposed it (27-139).

Barney Frank sounded tired in a post-mortem interview. Perhaps it was the overall crush of activities in pushing toward the congressional



Mud-slinging homophobe Robert Dornan.

Easter recess, but certainly the outcome of this battle weighed heavily into the equation.

"I would have liked to have taken it [the Hancock amendment] head-on, but the leadership of the committee wasn't ready to do that," he said. "We did get 27 Republicans, which is more than we usually get, but it is still pretty pathetic on something like this." He had hoped for about 40 Republican votes.

Frank had thought support from Republican mayors Richard Riordan in Los Angeles and Rudolph Guiliani in New York would have generated more Republican votes in the House. He criticized the mayors for not doing more, for writing letters but not twisting arms.

"The right wing grip on the Republican party is even stronger than I thought it was," said Frank. "The right wing now has decided that immigration and gay rights will be their big issues, not abortion. That just terrifies Republicans."

King is more sanguine. He believes that mayors have little impact on House Republicans, few of whom represent city districts. He sees 27 Republican votes as "a significant number, particularly when groups like Concerned Women for America and Traditional Values Coalition were defining it as a vote for taxpayer-funded promotion of homosexuality."

He is grateful that they were able to move the vote when they did. "The radical right would have used the Easter season to drum up support in the churches. By holding the vote before the recess we were able to keep focused on the facts."

Domi labels the vote a "mitigated non-victory" because they were not able to stop the Hancock amendment as they had originally hoped. Instead, they had to modify their strategy to reducing the amendment's worst elements. To Domi, "That [language] is going to go into the record. That is ugly."

She also faults the Clinton administration for its role — or rather, its non-role — in this debate. She reports that "a lot of Democrats ... felt that the Department of Education basically left them out in left field on their own, didn't back them up."

"It just doesn't seem that the Department of Education wanted to get near anything that has the 'H' word or the 'G' or the 'L' word," says Domi. "They are just going to run away from it. The administration is just not doing anything to stop this." ▼

PWA Fights Bashing, Discrimination in Stockton

by Marv. Shaw

Despite a surprising ruling against former Stockton resident Gary Sebastian by a court-pointed arbitrator, the 39-year-old gay man is still struggling for redress against his former landlord and a number of goons whom he alleges were hired to destroy his property and damage him.

Sebastian is now working with his San Mateo attorneys to win damages from those he claims harassed him as a tenant — and then bashed him when he tried to defend his property and himself.

Sebastian, 39, is a CAD-CAM computer specialist who was raised in Saratoga and lived in San Francisco for 17 years. In 1984, after Sebastian was diagnosed with AIDS and his lover died in his arms, Sebastian decided to move to Stockton on the advice of friends.

He lived in the city peacefully for some time, then moved into an apartment building where he says his troubles began: when other tenants discovered he had AIDS, he alleges they started a campaign of harassment. Boxes were piled outside his door; his electrical power was cut off from time to time; shouted confrontations mounted.

And from one man, Sebastian alleges, came a more direct threat: "You won't have to wait for AIDS to kill you if you don't move out!"

Tattooed convict strikes

On May 12, 1991, Sebastian was served with a 20-day eviction notice, he has since testified, but refused to move. About a month later a heavily-tattooed man appeared at the door of a neighbor Sebastian was visiting, asking information about him. The man was put off, but later returned and stormed Sebastian's apartment, eventually gaining entry and trashing the place. It turned out that he was John Coureges, a paroled convict, and although the apartment manager, Janice Burdette, said at the time that she

didn't know him, it was later proved that she did.

Sebastian tells the *Bay Area Reporter* the police investigated, found Coureges, and arrested him; he confessed. But during the ensuing investigation, while was Sebastian was waiting for police fingerprinting experts in his apartment, it was invaded again, this time by several

Sebastian says he heard his pursuers holler as he scrambled to escape "You're getting what you deserve, faggot!"

men. While they were trying to bash in the door, Sebastian says, he tried to escape by a kitchen window.

Hampered by a cast on his leg — the consequence of a freak accident — he managed to get through the second-story window but then fell to the ground, resulting in several other injuries. He says he managed to hop on one leg through the residential area until he found aid, and that he heard his pursuers holler as he scrambled to escape, "You're getting what you deserve, faggot!"

The police eventually intervened, and Sebastian was hospitalized. He is bitter that the only person who got any punishment in the situation was John Coureges, who had to serve 50 days for breaking parole.

It is Sebastian's contention that subsequent events, such as the disappearance of police reports, and what he sees as the trivializing and delaying of proper legal procedures, can be traced to a conflict of interest: a deputy district attorney in Stockton is the owner of the apartment building, which Burdette was only managing.

After the fall, Sebastian was prevailed on by friends who feared for his safety to move to Half Moon Bay, where he was a patient at St. Catherine's Hospital. He moved to a rundown residence hotel in San Mateo, but when he connected with ELIPSE, the San Mateo County AIDS service, the director, Colette Hoffman, assisted Sebastian to move in to his own apartment. He is very grateful to Ellipse, and to ARIS and the Interfaith Ministry, which have helped him furnish his place. Almost all of his former possessions were destroyed in Stockton.

The California Fair Housing Authority took Sebastian's case in December 1991. Since then, he has split his energies between furthering his case and doing AIDS education at local schools.

A mixed decision

The March hearing in Stockton was presided over by an arbitrator — who ren-

dered a mixed decision, albeit more against Sebastian than for him — rather than by a judge. Sebastian's attorneys, William Johnston and Helen Yvonne Seeley, both of San Mateo, were surprised and disappointed by the decision, but not completely pessimistic.

Although the ruling as a whole went against his client, Seeley pointed out that he did win a settlement of \$5,000 against David Spinelli, a confederate of Burdette's who was accused of assaulting Sebastian during a confrontation in the basement of the Stockton apartment house.

Johnston also told the *B.A.R.* the case is far from over: the arbitrator's decision is not binding, and the attorneys have moved for a trial *de novo*, which will be held in a state court. Both attorneys are confident that they have the evidence to reverse the decision against Sebastian. The state court trial should take place in from three to six months.

In the meantime, Sebastian struggles on, but he says he is growing weaker and needs support. The emotional drain on his system produced by the strain of the hearing lowered his T-cell count significantly.

"If I die, the case will be closed," he told the *B.A.R.* sadly. "And I suspect that is what they are hoping for in Stockton." ▼

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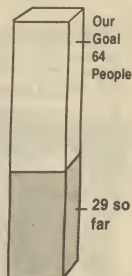


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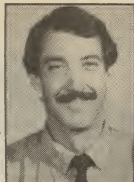
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California News

GLAAD Throws One Helluva Party in So Cal

by Karen Ocamb

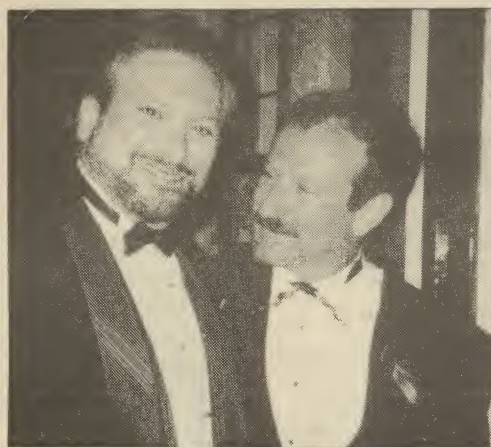
It's hard to believe that just five years ago the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation had to plead for celebrities to attend its first awards dinner. This year the awards dinner burst at the seams at the Century Plaza Hotel, hosted by Academy Awards nominee Stockard Channing (*Six Degrees of Separation*) and *Short Cuts* star and gay-favorite Bruce Davison. Though the organization is still counting, an initial count puts the evening's proceeds at about \$300,000.

This year a special award went to Aaron Spelling, who told the crowd he didn't understand all the fuss about censorship and sponsorship pull-out. After all, he'd been presenting gay characters forthrightly since the days of *Family* and *Dynasty*. Spelling also produced *...And the Band Played On*, and in a touching moment at the dinner he referred to the book's recently deceased author, Randy Shilts. "Randy's band is still playing," Spelling said "and as far as I'm concerned, [the government hasn't] done a damn thing about it."

The best line of the evening, in fact, was Spelling's, in response to the debate over whether homophobia still exists in Hollywood? "You don't have to see a bullfrog to hear him croak."

Two of Spelling's *Melrose Place* stars were present — Doug Savant, who plays a gay character, and Heather Locklear, who presented Spelling's award. Openly lesbian Amanda Bearse (*Married...With Children*) gasped "Heather Locklear's here!" before going on with her presentation of Outstanding Visibility Award to Clint Clinton administration official Roberta Achtenberg. When Locklear hit the stage she said, "Amanda, I'm not sure you know this — but I'm newly single again." Bearse, however, is happily married — with a child.

Stars were plentiful: honoree *...And the Band Played On* stars Matthew Modine and Lily Tomlin; *Mrs. Doubtfire*'s Harvey Fierstein — presented with the Visibility



GLAAD Visibility Award winner Harvey Fierstein (left) was surprised by his *Mrs. Doubtfire* co-star Robin Williams, who flew in from San Francisco to present Harvey's award.

(Photo: Karen Ocamb)

Award by openly gay actor David Drake (*The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*) and surprise presenter, *Doubtfire* co-star Robin Williams; and Swoozie Kurtz (also in *Band*) and Nora Dunn, who plays a lesbian TV producer on the GLAAD honored *Sisters*; *Tales of the City* author and honoree Armistead Maupin was there with some of the

lesbian comedienne Lea Delaria, parodying the now infamous "lesbian kiss" on the hit TV show. Unfortunately, actress Judith Light who, like Davison, has been so out front for gay rights, was unable to attend this year.

In addition to Spelling's heavyweight presence, NBC Entertainment President Warren Littlefield also showed up, accepting an award on behalf of *Seinfeld*. Much praise was heaped on Littlefield by NBC writers and producers who said they received only encouragement about doing gay episodes. The honored *Seinfeld* episode featured *Seinfeld* and Jason Alexander's reactions to mistaken press reports that they were gay — featuring their now classic retort: "not that there's anything wrong with it."

With the surge in mainstream visibility, and with the awards show having evolved into what executive director Lee Werbell calls an "opportunity to say thank you" after a year of pointing out errors, the acknowledgement of achievements by the non-mainstream gay community have been pared down. This year Highways Performance Space received the Outstanding Community Service Award.

There was one major, embarrassing glitch. *Philadelphia* writer Ron Nyswaner was in the middle of accepting his award when the band started to play him off the stage — a la Frank Sinatra at the Grammys. Stockard Channing later apologized on behalf of the producers.

But for most of those in attendance, the GLAAD/LA awards banquet was a fun Hollywood hit. It was also a delightful mutual admiration event as Achtenberg tightly hugged Maupin and told him *Tales* made her "feel homesick for San Francisco in the cold dead of winter in Washington."

Maupin, meanwhile, was cautioning everyone that anti-gay Donald Wildmon and his American Family Association were hell-bent on shutting down PBS — especially since *Tales* was the network's highest-rated show, and *More Tales* is in production. ▼

**Academy
Award
nominee and
GLAAD
honoree
Ang Lee's
The Wedding
Banquet
cast flew in
from Taiwan.**

PBS production cast members, as was Academy Award nominee and GLAAD honoree Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet*) whose cast had flown in from Taiwan.

There were scores of other stars too — such as *Roseanne* guest Mariel Hemingway who received a huge, on-stage, on-the-lips kiss from



GLAAD award winners author Armistead Maupin (left) and HUD Assistant Secretary Roberta Achtenberg share a hug.

(Photo: Karen Ocamb)

Straight —and Narrow

by Al Kielwasser

Publishers of **STRAIGHT** magazine ("Society To Remove All Immoral Gross Homosexual Trash") have announced a new advertising campaign. Their current display ad — which they claim will be "running in several publications across the country by the end of the year" — features this banner headline: "WANTED: All criminals protecting, promoting, or practicing homosexual perversion." The ad declares that the "death penalty for homosexuals is prescribed in the Bible" and asks readers to help "bring these criminals to justice."

Correspondence may be directed to **STRAIGHT**, P.O. Box 5251, Denver, CO [Where else?] 80217.

Wake up, Wake County

Recently, anonymous young homophobes put up a hate-filled, anti-queer poster at Enloe High School in Wake County, North Carolina. In response, six courageous students wrote and distributed a pamphlet urging understanding and respect for lesbians and gays. Unlike the homophobic poster-makers, these students signed their work and now — remarkably — face suspension!

Support for the six students should be sent to Principal Bobby Allen, Enloe High School, 128 Clarendon Crescent, Raleigh, NC 27610, tel. 919-856-7860, and Superintendent Robert Wentz, Wake County Public School System, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, tel. 919-850-1600.

Truth washes out

Here at home, the mainstream media seem bent on promoting a second wave of homophobic AIDS hysteria, and once again gay bathhouses are at the center of the controversy. This hysterical coverage has been given a boost by Mayor Frank Jordan. Responding to plans by The Steamworks — an all-male bathhouse in Berkeley — to set up shop in San Francisco, Jordan issued an uninformed condemnation of gay sex clubs.

In his statement, Jordan claims that "bathhouses contributed to the spread of AIDS in a major way in the 1980s. We have gone down that road before." We have also learned something about safer sex education in the last decade, an evolution that Jordan ignores. The Mayor — along with most of the press — has also ignored The Steamworks's extensive AIDS/HIV educational program, which is arguably superior to the AIDS education provided in most of our public schools.

Most surveys suggest that private bedrooms — not public bathhouses — are the primary site of HIV infection. The debate over bathhouses should not be waged on the grounds of prejudice, but fact.

Unfortunately, Jordan's official statement on bathhouses ended with this particularly callous statement: "It would be unconscionable for me to support this concept," the Mayor

said. "When a person has been tested positive for HIV it costs \$102,000 per patient for a lifetime of care." Presumably, the Mayor would be less concerned if people just started dying for free.

Thoughts on the issue should be sent to the editor of your daily paper, and to Frank Jordan, Room 200, City Hall, San Francisco, CA 94102, tel. 415-554-6141.

Shocking censorship

Viacom Cable continues a decade-long attack on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender programming. Demonstrating that the company has no understanding of the words "public" or "access," Viacom has routinely censored public access programs produced by the Electric City Network. On February 11th, Electric City was cut off by Viacom — right in the middle of the program — at the start of a segment on a nude art show. Electric City producer Arnel Valle has documented numerous such abuses by Viacom. According to Valle, "Electric City shows have been played on machines over 15 years old, tampered with while on the air, blacked out, and neglected from improper storage while at Viacom."

Complaints should be sent to Jon Marx, V.P. & General Manager, Viacom Cable, 2055 Folsom St., S.F., CA 94103, tel. 415-863-8500. Send a copy of your letter to the President and All Members, S.F. Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Rm. 235, S.F., CA 94104.

Does Mel know you?

Mel White, gay former ghost writer for the super-stars of bigotry (Ollie North, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham) appeared on the March 20th episode of *60 Minutes*. Since coming out of the closet, White has recently begun to campaign against fundamentalist hypocrisy.

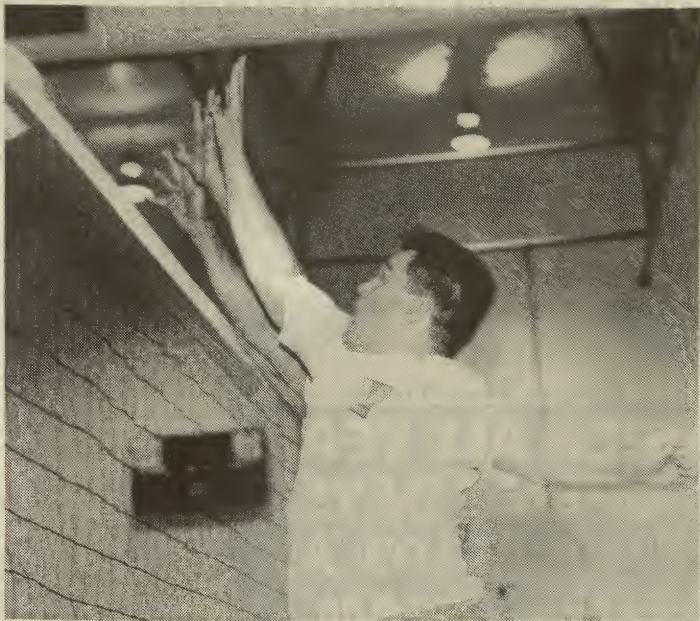
While White's efforts are admirable, he ended his *60 Minutes* interview with an exhibition of self-loathing. When asked if he'd rather be heterosexual, White replied, in part: "Certainly, I'd rather be straight. I don't know a gay or lesbian person in this country that would not rather be straight."

Obviously, Mel needs to make some new friends. Unfortunately, his statement was broadcast on one of the nation's most popular news shows. Alternative points of view should immediately be sent to Write to Don Hewitt, Executive Producer, *60 Minutes*, 524 West 57th Street, 9th Floor, New York NY 10019, tel. 212-975-4321, fax 212-975-1519.

Thanks for Hanks

As everyone knows by now, actor Tom Hanks gave a powerfully-affirmative acceptance speech at this year's Academy Awards — the most-watched television program on Earth that evening. To thank Hanks for thanking "gay Americans," write him c/o Richard Lovett, Creative Artists Agency, 983 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212. ▼

We must confront homophobia to cure it! To notify the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of any defamatory media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, write to GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. Call our main office at 415-861-4588; fax, 415-861-4893; South Bay, 408-235-0229; East Bay, 510-273-9146; North Bay, 415-647-3055. ▼



Reach out and spike

Spike for Life '94 was the final volleyball meet in a three-tournament series that included teams from Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Francisco and San Luis Obispo. The March 26 event at the James Lick Middle School and Eureka Valley Recreation Center raised \$15,000 (minus \$1,000 expenses) for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

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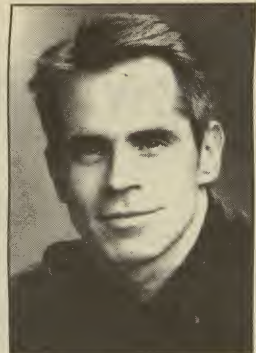
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The Second Generation

A Review of Immune Power by Jon D. Kaiser, M.D.

by Michael C. Botkin

Immune Power by Jon D. Kaiser, M.D. is subtitled "Combining Holistic and Standard Therapies into the Optimal Treatment Program for HIV." The 240-page book is notable for its ability to integrate traditional western medical practice with its east-

ern, "New Age," and alternative counterparts, despite the mutual hostility that usually predominates between the practitioners of these diverse disciplines.

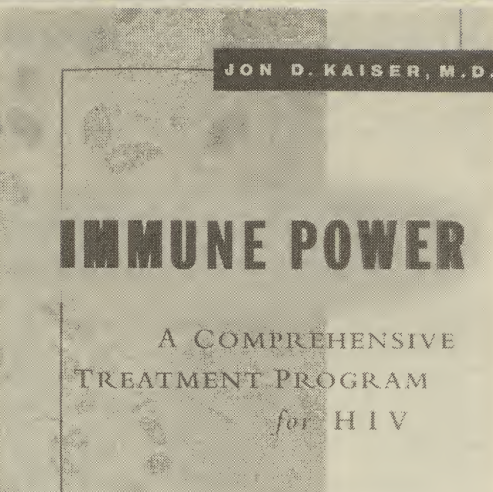
Kaiser believes that his fusion approach is sufficient to literally stop the progression of AIDS dead in its tracks. Alas, the evidence for this is

still lacking, but the partial success of Kaiser's methods do suggest that AIDS will, ultimately, be largely treatable even if not susceptible to a true, full cure.

The *Immune Power* approach, set forth by Kaiser in his book as well as at numerous seminars and conference presentations, is centered on "achieving viral dormancy," or ensuring that HIV remains in its relatively harmless "switched-off" state instead of its deadly "active" state. This is to be accomplished by a holistic and comprehensive program that utilizes state-of-the-art techniques from both "Natural" and "Standard Medical" therapies.

Natural therapies include proper diet, herbs, sufficient vitamins and nutritional supplements, exercise, stress reduction, and "emotional healing" techniques. "Standard medical" covers the usual mainstream techniques, but favoring prophylaxis for opportunistic infections and later intervention with heavy duty anti-virals — an usually at low doses at least initially.

It is rare to find such a well-rounded approach. Many "alternative" therapists scorn traditional western medicine with such acrimony that they won't acknowledge it has any value, and advise patients to avoid vitally needed treatments. Mainstream doctors are less likely (nowadays, in San Francisco at least) to sneer at alternative methods,



Immune Power author Jon D. Kaiser states that "AIDS is one of the most complex diseases we've encountered to date."

but they remain largely ignorant about them.

Kaiser manages to straddle this considerable chasm to claim the likely best of both worlds.

He does this by taking a peculiarly non-theoretical approach. His conclusions are based on his decade of clinical work with HIVers rather than on any elaborated doctrine of how AIDS works. Kaiser is one of the first of the "second generation" of AIDS doctors. A few physicians had established practices when the epidemic broke out and were, wily-nilly, on the cutting edge of HIV treatment; at that time Dr. Kaiser was just finishing medical school, after much dabbling in herbology, but he trained with those first-wave doctors and soon developed his own approach.

That approach draws on diverse research, substantiating the value of exercise in delaying HIV progression, on the connection between certain vitamin deficiencies and AIDS, on the impact of emotional states upon the immune system, on the undeniable effects of nutrition on HIV, and so forth, including of course the vast literature on mainstream medical drug therapies for AIDS. It assumes that progression can be halted, but it doesn't even particularly require that HIV be the cause of AIDS.

There are two potential flaws with his approach. The first is that the connections between these various studies are still vague at best, and the resulting chain of logic has many questionable links. The other is that Kaiser's practice is clearly limited to "golden lifeboats": relatively healthy and well-off HIVers with many resources — financial, social, medical, and psychological — and who are intervening early. Did they stay healthy because of his innovative and comprehensive treatment, or just because it often takes AIDS many years to progress even if nothing is done, particularly in the well-fed and well-heeled?

While conceding that most of his experience is with early stage HIVers, and that his approach is more limited in what it can offer highly progressed PWAs, Kaiser rejects the notion that his results are an artifact of selection due more to his patients' initial health than to his treatment program. If those factors that go into "lifeboat" status — proper nutrition and an overall healthy lifestyle that in-

cludes avoiding needless stress and the corrosive work situations that most often cause that stress — largely prevent AIDS, then doesn't that constitute an effective treatment in and of itself? Shouldn't such factors cease to take second place to costly and frequently toxic mainstream chemotherapies?

Indeed, Kaiser attributes much of his own success to clinical proficiency and his willingness to pay more attention to his patients and all the aspects of their life. He is frankly scornful of some of our local doctors with famous and rather massive HIV practices of many hundreds of patients. "How can any doctor seriously focus on any one patient with a practice that large?" he rhetorical asked this reporter. How many doctors caring for HIVers, he asks, seriously consider the emotional or even nutritional factors involved, let alone treat them aggressively? "AIDS is one of the most complex diseases we've encountered to date," Kaiser said. "It's foolish to assume that a fifteen minute consultation about it every few months is enough."

At the same time, I couldn't help but notice that Kaiser gets a handsome fee for his services, and that they are well beyond the reach of anyone lacking decent insurance. And if Kaiser's success is dependent on his "just being a good doctor" (no small factor) then all that other theoretical stuff dims in importance by contrast.

Such quibbles regarding access aside, Kaiser's *Immune Power* approach remains an attractive advance in AIDS therapy. Although his data are too limited to prove anything, the cumulative weight of his limited conclusions is highly suggestive and appeal strongly to common sense.

No, AIDS can't be cured, nor are the triggers of its progression well understood. But a comprehensive application of all the available proven (or near-proven) techniques can slow down it down quite a bit. It is a sad fact that most of these currently available treatments are not being utilized by the majority of HIVers, because of ignorance, inertia, or a penny-wise-pound-foolish approach to limiting costs. Kaiser's methods are a clear step in the right direction; he might not have "the answer" but he's got some good ideas about where to look for it. ▼



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- (CS-09) T-Cells 200 to 500, must be on antiretroviral. Stephanie LaCarrubba at 565-6524

Non-nucleoside RT Inhibitors:

- (U-87) T-Cells 50 to 350, on AZT for at least 3 months prior to start up. Call Sue Kelly at 565-6058
- (U-90-17) T-Cells less than 300, no prior use of ddC, d4T, 3TC; less than 4 mo. use of ddl, no AZT restriction.
- (U-90-21) T-Cells 200 to 500, less than 6 mo. AZT use, no other prior use of antiretrovirals. Call Ann Conroy at 565-6649

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Date:

Wednesday April 6, 1994

Time:

8:30 AM Until 1:00 PM

Place:

The Green Room at The War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Ave. Second Fl., San Francisco, CA

The forum will cover:

- * An overview of the health care crisis for people with HIV/AIDS.
- * The details of the Clinton Health Security Act of 1993 and its impact on people with HIV/AIDS.
- * The elements of other key Congressional bills on health care reform and their impact on people with HIV/AIDS.
- * The current political and media climate on health care reform.
- * Actions everyone can take to influence the debate on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS.
- * We will provide extensive written materials on HIV/AIDS and national health care reform, including community organizing, advocacy, and media materials, to all participants. There will also be refreshments and light snacks.

Speakers:

Larry Levitt - White House Health Policy Adviser

Paul A. Di Donato - SFAF Public Policy Associate

Invited: Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Sandra Hernandez, M.D. - Director of Department of Public Health, City of S.F.

Anthony Iton, M.D. - Representative of Health Access & Consumer's Union

Access: This facility is wheelchair accessible. It is also served by Public Transportation. MUNI lines 47 & 49 are the most direct. The nearest subway station (MUNI lines J,K,L,M) is Van Ness Ave., located 4 blocks south. The nearest BART station is Civic Center, transfer to MUNI to Van Ness or walk. Underground parking is available at the Civic Center Garage.

Obituaries

James J. Coffey

April 7, 1950-March 18, 1994



Born in Brooklyn, Jim received a B.A. at York College and an M.P.A. degree at New York University before beginning a career in health care administration in the New York state hospital system. Shortly after arriving in San Francisco in

1980, Jim joined Bank of America, where he became an assistant vice president. He moved to Wells Fargo Bank, becoming a key player on the marketing team that supported the Asset Management Group. Successfully transferring his excellent marketing skills to the sales arena, Jim's last title at the bank was vice president. Everyone who knew Jim through his work and through his community activities will remember his enthusiasms, his intelligence, his capacity for friendship, and his laughter.

Jim, who died after a valiant battle with AIDS, is survived by his parents, Ann and Walter Coffey; his brothers,

Girard and Robert; and his sister, Therese. Friends are invited to gather at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, to remember him at the home of Allan Gold, 424 Central, San Francisco. It was Jim's wish that donations be made in his memory to Project Open Hand, the AIDS Emergency Fund, the Shanti Project, or Visiting Nurses and Hospice. For more information about the memorial gathering, please call (415) 929-9524. ▼

Sheila Jill Courser

1951-1994



We will be saddened when we think of her, and we will think of her often. An active member of the community and tireless volunteer for many projects since she moved here eight years ago, Sheila saw opportunity everywhere. She was the first to lend a hand (and the first to see the humor in such a phrase) when others thought a task beneath them.

She was most active with International Ms. Leather Inc. and participated as a volunteer, board member and contestant. While others saw her as differently abled, Sheila saw herself as simply the same. But she was not. She truly represented what a leather woman is by empowering herself and those around her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Glen C. Courser, and brothers, Daniel and Neal. Surviving are her loving mother and stepfather, Elesia and Stuart Allin of New Hampshire; brothers, Glen Jr., Kenneth and Dwight; sisters, Jean Davidson and Catherine Morin; an uncle, two aunts; cousins; nieces; nephews; and friends who will miss her irreverent sense of humor, quick smile and untiring dedication to the leather community. Contributions in her memory should be made to International Ms. Leather Inc., 2215-R Market St., #450, San Francisco, 94114. A memorial will be held later this spring. For further information, call Sky at (415) 721-0614. ▼

Donald R. Cox

June 11, 1952-March 19, 1994

On March 19, surrounded by his lover Ray, mother Marie and good friend John, Donnie died peacefully due to an AIDS-related illness.

Born and raised in and around Plainview, Texas, Don left at 16 to attend college, eventually receiving his BA in architecture from the University of Chicago. He worked at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill for four years.

Leaving Chicago, he settled in Washington, DC, and together with his lover, the late Ted Huffcutt, co-owned and operated the Nosegay Flower Shop. Don attended the Shelton School of Floral Design, the European Masters Design School in Vienna and the American Institute of Floral Design. Their clients included then Vice President and Mrs. Bush, the Reagans, the Smithsonians and the Corcoran Gallery, besides many other heads of state and embassies.

Don lived in New York City and Greenwich, Conn., before moving to San Francisco in 1991. He had the great pleasure of meeting and falling in love with him in April of that year.

Don is survived by his parents, Vonnice and Marie Cox; his brother, Dick; many relatives in Texas and Oklahoma; his "babies," Tiger and Tish; and many friends here in San Francisco and in New York.

Donnie, I love you with all my heart, and I miss you terribly. Love, Ray. ▼

Leslie Alan Dirks

May 12, 1956-Feb. 25, 1994

On Friday, February 25, Les' "Closed His Eyes to Heaven" and danced from this life to his next.

Les' friendship was a ride of a lifetime; full of thrills, never boring, and always there whenever he was needed. His generosity and caring support helped many of his friends during their own battles with HIV infection and AIDS.

His love of life, dancing, and making the most of every opportunity inspired his friends to join in or move out of the way 'cuz he was coming through!

Les was a founding member of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a member of the Denver Soccer Team represented at the First Gay Games, and sang with the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus. During the last couple years of his life, Les was involved with Pleasure Dome and, at the time of his death, was co-owner/manager.

A celebration of his life is planned for Saturday, April 2, promptly at 8 p.m. at Thunderdome, 174 King. Those who come to share this time are invited to dance the night away following the celebration.

I kept my end of the bargain, sweetheart; now it's your turn. My love forever and ever. ▼

John Patrick Lovelace

Dec. 9, 1951-Feb. 12, 1994

John was a man who lived a full life in half a lifetime. As a child John dreamed of owning his own airline. He left San Diego for NYC after two years

of college to pursue a career in the airline industry and experience his chosen lifestyle. He transferred to San Francisco, where he lived until he returned to San Diego for his final weeks of life.

His unique knowledge of travel and of the world along with his wry sense of humor made him good company and a welcome guest on five continents. The last years of his life were spent battling AIDS and doing all he could to educate people in both the gay and straight communities so that more people might be spared this unjust curse.

John was predeceased by his younger brother, Paul, also an AIDS victim. He is survived by his parents, Edwin and Patricia Lovelace; his brother, Chris; sisters, Mary, Therese, Joan and Patty; as well as 13 nieces and nephews. His family is forever grateful for the love and support of his friends and support groups in the Bay Area, who enriched his life to the very end.

Donations may be sent to Project Open Hand, Family Link or the Shanti Project. ▼

Joseph Michael Durbano

July 8, 1945-March 23, 1994

Joe Durbano died at home in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 23. Joe was a native New Yorker, spending his early years in Brooklyn and Long Island. He was a graduate of St. John's University and a member of the

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He was a computer specialist for 15 years with the U.S. Department of the Treasury both in New York and San Francisco. During his five years of life with AIDS, Joe devoted himself to new and enriching enterprises: ceramics, study of the Italian language, and volunteer work with the Shanti Project. His love of Italian food and culture resulted in wonderful journeys to Rome and Venice, and to his ancestral origins in the Abruzzi and Sicily.

Joe was uniquely kind and fun-loving. Special memories will sustain us who struggle with our loss. Joe, as a boy playing the accordion for the family in Brooklyn, fun and crazy college days in Jackson Heights; the snow of '78 and his flight to SF; margarita parties in the California sun; keeper of the flag for the Federal Lesbians and Gays; and father and friend of felices, especially Rodney and Sylvester.

Joe is survived by his loving partner of seven years, Jim King and his extended NY family, including his adoring mother, Lillian; his brother, Rinaldo; and nephews, Michael and Phillip, all of Long Island. A memorial gathering for Joe will take place at his home Saturday, April 9, 1994, at 1 p.m. Call 648-8567 for information. Donations may be made in his memory to the AIDS Emergency Fund. ▼

Lee Jordan

Jan. 24, 1948-Feb. 9, 1994

With a smile always on his face, Lee will be remembered as a fun-loving friend. An accomplished singer and pianist, Lee was always ready to entertain. He truly enjoyed life. Originally from Houston/ New Orleans, Lee made San Francisco his home since 1983. His wit was evident to all his friends. His presence at the Lone Star Saloon is sorely missed. Always ready to get involved, Lee offered his time and talents in fundraising efforts for the AIDS Emergency Fund on many occasions.

Lee was a party waiting to happen. But he had a serious side a few of us were privileged to get to know. Having served in Vietnam, Lee knew how to see through the bull and get to the heart of matters. He added his own special touch to everything.

He leaves his family in Houston and his many friends here with good memories. He left us quickly as was his wish. He was brave and at peace. An AEF fundraising beer bust/remembrance will be held Saturday, April 9, 3:30 p.m. at the Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. Potluck contributions welcomed. He liked to party. Join his friends. For info: 821-6955. ▼

William C. (Wick) Kenney

May 14, 1959-March 25, 1994

Surrounded by candles, flowers, family and friends and his life partner, Wick concluded his journey in this life in peace, relieving him of the pains and fevers that he suffered for the last seven months. Wick Kenney devoted

his life to fight for the protection of the environment. He worked and served diligently with Friends of the River and EarthShare of California in the past 12 years. His legacy lives on with the establishment of the William C. Kenney Watershed Protection Foundation, which will grant funds for the cause of river protection in the Western United States.

It was extremely hard to see him off. But he promised that one day he will play with us again. He will ski, play squash, kayak, and make love again. Yet until then, he is dearly missed by his adoring lover, Humphrey Wou; his family, Susanna, Chad, Jay, Chip, and Hod; his nanny, Stottie; and many lifelong friends.

A celebration of Wick's life will be held at noon on Easter Sunday, at Redwood Spring Ranch, 7639 Sonoma Highway, Santa Rosa. ▼

Michael B. Linn

February 26, 1994

Michael died peacefully Saturday night, February 26, at 10:15, after a short stay at Mt. Zion in San Francisco. His loving mother, Mary Ann Linn of Banks, Ore., and two close friends, Rick M. Godlove and Paul W. Motter, were at his side.

He is also survived by his brothers, John of Banks and Peter of Sacramento, as well as his father.

The essence of Mike was his love of nature, which was a total part of him. He lived to explore the mountains, walk the creeks and watch the sunsets. A leaf from a tree was as important as a great painting, and a rock would become a beautiful sculpture. The shadow of a tree could put him into a trance. He loved San Francisco and made it his home since 1967. He explored it like a character out of *Tales of the City*. He did not make small talk and was considered to be quiet, but when he talked about something, his messages were profound. We will miss him. ▼

James Nickell

November 4, 1993

James Nickell passed on peacefully and into the light on November 4, 1993, at 44 years of age. He is survived by his good friends, Anthony, Bruce McGee, Steve Freeman and Mark Padgett; "Ms. M," his mother Mary Nickell; four brothers; and three sisters.

James (Jim) Nickell was a gentle soul of peace, goodness and love. He was the kindest and most considerate of the family offspring. He will be remembered for his beautiful heart, magnificent brilliant eyes and gentle smile. He was an experienced professional interior designer and a graduate of SF City College, where he placed on the dean's list and had a four-point average. He passed into the arms of Mother Universe to rest with Her throughout Eternity, for one day we will be together again. We love you always.

A memorial service was held in Lexington, Kentucky. ▼

Charles P. Thorp

March 26, 1994

Archreverend Charles P. Thorp, of Pleasant Hill died on Saturday, March 26, 1994 at Kaiser Hospital, Walnut Creek. A native of San Francisco, age 44, he was a 13-year resident of Pleasant Hill and a prior San Francisco resident. Archreverend Thorp was the spiritual head and founder of The Church for Unity and Service.

He is survived by his partner of 10 years, Michael Velez of Pleasant Hill; sisters, Catherine Thorp of San Mateo and Bernadette Thorp of Fresno; brother, Robert J. Thorp Jr. of San Jose; and his loving family in faith. Visitation

(Continued on next page)

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Community Spirit Puts Charity Payments on Hold

by Dennis Conkin

A Boston-based national long distance telecommunications carrier that once recruited lesbian and gay subscribers through Community Spirit, a service that promised to give a portion of enrollment costs and monthly long distance fees to lesbian and gay and HIV-related groups, has sued the firm which marketed the program.

Trans National Communications announced last month that it seeks injunctive relief against Chicago-based Overlooked Opinions in a dispute over the handling of the service.

TNC, a 20-year-old firm, says that although that it has paid more than \$250,000 to Overlooked Opinions, none of the estimated \$80,000 in

promised contributions has yet reached the coffers of the lesbian and gay groups that were supposed to get them.

"Overlooked Opinions is to be applauded for its efforts in marketing TNC's long distance services to the lesbian and gay community," said Douglas Furbush, the firm's president. "Regrettably, leaders of lesbian and gay organizations have told us they were promised quarterly royalties by Overlooked Opinions, but that the money has not been paid."

"We became alarmed," he said, "when we learned that contributions have not made their way to the organizations that were supposed to receive them," a statement contested by Overlooked Opinions.

"There are no outstanding payments to date," Jeff Vitale, president of Overlooked Opinions, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Vitale said that no organizations were promised quarterly payments, but admitted "there have been problems" with getting the funds to community-based groups.

What's Overlooked?

Overlooked Opinions is best known for its market surveys of gay and lesbian consumers, the results of which often indicate that lesbians and gays have more "disposable income" and are a viable market. The Overlooked Opinions surveys have been used for years by some gay magazines to convince large companies to buy ads in gay newspapers and magazines.

An estimated 600 organizations around the country expect to receive some sort of remuneration for participating in the Community Spirit program, including the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights and Project Inform.



"I don't believe we've received any payments. I assume they would have been made in the last six months," NCLR director Moli Steinart told the *B.A.R.*

Community Spirit has announced that it will make the payments in May, but that's too late for TNC, which, according to McNulty, wants a permanent disconnection with Overlooked Opinions.

Overlooked Opinions, according to Vitale, is suing TNC for breach of contract because of the business dispute.

TNC has started its own long distance program called The Pride Network and will make annual quarterly payments of two percent of the long distance charges of each network user to lesbian gay and HIV groups that want to participate — and will donate \$5 to the agency of a new subscriber's choice.

Furbush thinks TNC will generate \$100,000 for lesbian, gay, and HIV-related organizations in the next three months, and says that callers can expect to save up to 40 percent of AT&T long distance rates.

Community Spirit has an estimated 30,000 subscribers to its service. ▼

Friday

(Continued from page 9)

Brown.

A setback: the Baltimore City Council last week rejected a bill that would have allowed gay and lesbian couples to document their relationships and possibly qualify for benefits from private employers.

Only in NYC: radio bad boy Howard Stern instantly became the best-known challenger to Mario Cuomo when he announced to 3,000,000 listeners last week that he will run for governor on the Libertarian ticket. Don't laugh, folks. NY political writers insist the guy is serious, and besides, if Sonny Bono gets elected to Congress...

Senator Milton Marks's countless friends and fans will help him celebrate 35 years in public life (he first went to the Assembly in 1958) at a party help Roberti as he battles former Democratic Party chair Phil Angelides for the June state treasurer nomination.

A lot of her San Francisco fans are already making plans to attend singer k.d. lang's big AIDS Project LA benefit May 5 at Mann's Chinese Theatre. Call AIDS Project LA for tickets and information.

State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi's campaign for governor received a very big boost last week when LA Supervisor Gloria Molina, the state's most prominent Latino politician, endorsed him over Kathleen on April 14, 6-8 p.m. at Fort Mason, Landmark Bldg. A. Tickets are \$35, and you can call 495-1363 for information.

Quote of the Week from film legend Shelley Winters after watching Tom Hanks win the Best Actor Oscar for his role in *Philadelphia* and *Schindler's List* take the prize for Best Picture: "These two films show how far bigotry can still go. I hope it makes the point that to hate — whether it's Jews or blacks or gays — is a corruption of the human spirit." ▼

"Regrettably, leaders of lesbian and gay organizations have told us they were promised quarterly royalties by Overlooked Opinions, but that the money has not been paid."

— Douglas Furbush, TNC president

Obituaries

(Continued from previous page)

tions will be on March 30, 1994, from noon till 9 p.m. at Ouimet Bros. Concord Funeral Chapel, 4125 Clayton Road, Concord. Funeral services will be on March 31, 1994, at noon at the mortuary. Interment at Oakmont Cemetery, Lafayette. Memorials may be made to The Church for Unity and Service, 200 Gregory Lane #112A, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. ▼

Debbie Lee Van

Oct. 7, 1961–March 4, 1994

If one is to believe that God makes no mistakes, then one must have the faith that in all the world of his creation, there are no mistakes. Everyone, everything, every action, is of his divine plan. All our journeys, our destinies have an

important purpose in his plan. From atoms to the grassy fields, a branch on a tree, to the little girl playing before your eyes — all of it has purpose; none of it is a mistake; it is just a part of the whole, a part of the reason for "being."

We all held Debbie in our arms and gave her comfort. Now she's in the arms that surround the world and comfort us all.

Debbie Lee is survived by her partner of five years, Lin Marcos, and her best buddies, Dallas, Pam and Deborah. Debbie, a defender of animals for the Peninsula Human Society, will be missed by all her animal friends, especially

by Mr. Tigger Van, a gal's best friend. Stubbie — Peace is the illusive kingdom of the soul. I will always love you — Linny. ▼

William E. Wright

March 21, 1949–March 18, 1994

Painter, craftsman, photographer, pyramid maker, gardener, gourmet cook, opera lover, and more. His fondness for Native American and Egyptian artifacts influenced his art and his travels. Bill turned his Dolores Street home into a museum which he loved to share with others.

Billy, will be missed by many, including his mother, Leona Wright of Bonner Springs, Kansas; his sister, Lisa Everett; his brother, Steve Wright; four nieces and nephews; his friends, Gary Pack and his mother Vera Pack, who cared for him through his illness; his companion, Ron Myers; childhood friends, Shayne Warren, Marty Spillman, and Nancy Caldwell; Casa Dolores neighbors, Lesley Gallagher and Jennifer Reynolds; devoted friend, Loren Hopper; opera friend, Lyle Snow; and houseman, Hiram Feibles.

Bill's dear friend, Peter K. Bailey, preceded him in death. The soul of his dear friend, Dick Roberts, returned to guide Billy to the next world. Bill's ashes will be scattered in the ocean in May by friends and at the feet of an

angel statue he loved in his home town, Bonner Springs, Kansas. A marker will be placed near the gravestone of his great-aunt, Evie Ward, an early influence on Bill's budding creative life. He will be remembered fondly by all who loved him. ▼

Mark Young

March 19, 1994

Mark Watson Young, 49, a longtime resident of San Francisco, died from AIDS complications on March 19 at the Nevada City home of his sister, Kay Hogan.

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Young graduated from the Richmond Professional Institute of Design in 1966 in Richmond, Virginia. Upon graduation, he moved to San Francisco and worked briefly with KTVU in Oakland.

In 1968, he began a 15-year career with the firm of Frederick Bruns Furniture and Interior Design. He owned and managed his own interior design business in 1986 and 1987, when he was diagnosed with HIV.

A person of wide interests, wit and talents, Mark will be missed by his many friends. His survivors include two sisters, Kay and Loretta; a brother, Don; and close friends, Tim Belk, Maggie Doyle, and Larry Miller.

Cremation will take place in Nevada City with a small memorial service afterwards. ▼

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Dumpsters in Myrtle Alley, where a dismembered male body was discovered March 28.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Murder

(Continued from page 1)

the victim. There were more heated words, and then they both went outside to the street," homicide inspector Jeff Brosch said.

The suspect, who remains at large, punched and slugged Rey, pushed him into a tree planter and then pulled out a handgun and fired "five or six times" at Rey.

Rey managed to get up after being hit, staggered back to the restaurant, and collapsed at its front door, according to Brosch.

Police say the killer ran down Polk Street, then turned down Bush Street and escaped, despite hot pursuit by a plainclothes officer who was investigating an unrelated burglary at the Leland Hotel next door to the cafe.

Homicide inspector Ed Erdelatz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there is "no clear motive" for the homi-

cide, but says that Rey definitely knew his killer — and that police are exploring all leads.

"I heard the shots. It was really terrible," Leland Hotel manager Bruce Sandifer told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They were both street hustlers. But this is a real fluke. It's not an indication that Polk Street is deteriorating."

Sandifer said that there were two plainclothes officers inside the Leland working a burglary investigating at the time of the killing, but one stayed with the burglary suspect as the other gave chase.

"People just started running here and we got them to shut up and get away from the door," Sandifer said. "There were a lot of witnesses."

Tom Torstenson, manager of the Pet Pantry on Pine Street, told the *B.A.R.* he will always remember the tragic aftermath of the dispute that led to Rey's murder. "I heard the sirens. I saw

the fireman doing CPR and a paramedic inside the ambulance. I saw his feet and legs and I saw the fireman shaking his head," Torstenson said.

Rey, a one time employee of Le Salon adult bookstore, was a well-known street hustler, according to Erdelatz.

Eyewitness descriptions of Rey's assailant vary and police are seeking anyone with information that may help them catch the killer.

"It's an active investigation," Erdelatz said. "We are hoping that people who knew Tony Rey or who have any information will contact us. We are willing to talk to people on a confidential or an anonymous basis."

In what police says is an unrelated incident, the dismembered body of a white male was found by a "dumpster diver" on Monday, March 28 in Myrtle Alley between Polk and Larkin and Geary and O'Farrell Streets.

Police are keeping a tight lid on the details but described the remains as belonging to a clean shaven white male between the ages of 25-30 years old with long brown hair, according to Inspector Alex Fagan. The remains, including the victim's decapitated head, were found in several bags inside a dumpster.

The name of the victim has not been released, pending notification of next of kin, but the individual was known to be a Polk Street habitue.

There have been 29 homicides in San Francisco since the beginning of the year.

Anyone with information about either killing should contact the SFPD Homicide Bureau at 553-1145. ▼

ment, which contained \$10,000 worth of meat, and said there was at least \$5,000 worth of other groceries in the basement storeroom. "I guess you accommodate to your shrinking hopes. First I hoped the fire could be put out, then I hoped there wouldn't be too much damage, then I hoped the Boutique wouldn't burn — and it didn't — but I hadn't counted on the water and smoke damage. Now the building is destroyed I only hope we can salvage the meat and some of the other food, so we can

keep feeding the children and the people who are depending on us.

"And now I hope they find out how all this happened."

Reverend Freda recalled a couple of years ago when a firebomb was thrown at the church sanctuary and later, when a fire was set in carpet that was being removed from the church.

By Monday, local fire officials were sufficiently suspicious about the \$675,000 blaze to call in federal arson investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). There was also talk of bringing in arson-trained dog teams, but no conclusive information has yet been released regarding the origin of the fire.

"I can't believe the way it kept springing up," said Smith. "It just kept moving all over the roof so fast and so intense — it just didn't look right — and then the roof collapsed and I knew it was a total loss."

Several fire companies responded to the three-alarm fire and twice sent out for reinforcements as it threatened to blaze out of control. Sparks and flaming debris poured into the smoke-filled street as the roof collapsed onto the second floor, providing a macabre light show for church members and neighborhood people.

The gutted building looked different in Monday's daylight, as police and fire officials maintained their positions and kept control of the building while arson investigators sifted through the debris, trying to piece together just what happened in those last moments, while the Samaritan Center still lived. ▼

Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Meetings are Tuesdays, 7pm. 584B Castro. Discuss treatment issues, possible actions. 252-9200.

ACT UP SF Meets every Thursday at 7:30pm, in the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 3rd Fl. 621-0291.

Aguilas Gay Latino organization's general body meeting. April 9. 6-9pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. Potluck. 647-3104.

Alternative Family Project Low-fee family counseling services for children, youth and families with lesbian, gay &/or bisexual members. Queer parents support group, too. 550-2621.

Bay Area Young Positives Support groups, retreats, fun night, referrals and peer counseling for HIV-positive people under 27. 518 Waller. 487-1616.

Brothers in Arms 6-week discussion group for young gay/bi/transgender men of color, sponsored by LYRIC. Meets Sat. 3-5pm. To register, call 703-6152.

Center for Attitudinal Healing "Letting Go of Fear" and five other weekly workshops. \$100. April 6-May 18. One full scholarship offered to a gay man to work with the HIV/AIDS support group. 19 Main St., Tiburon. 435-5022.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Services for deaf and hard of hearing people with HIV/AIDS. 3333 California, Suite 10. 346-8327 TTY, 476-4980 (Voice).

Easter Egg Hunt For queer parents & their kids. April 2, Gerstle Park, San Rafael, 11:30am. Bring eggs and a lunch. Look for the rainbow flag. Sponsored by Spectrum. 457-1115.

Easter Sunday Service Gay-friendly worship, with choral and instrumental music, 9 & 11am (Easter bonnet contest after 11am service), plus gospel choir at 7pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Freedom Day Parade Committee Openings available for community groups to raise funds at beverage booths. Submit letter of request by April 11 to: SFL/GFDP&CC, 584 Castro, #513, SF, CA 94114.

Gay/Lesbian Historical Society Volunteers needed for exhibit about pre-Stonewall San Francisco. Ellen: 626-0980.

Gay Pride Art Exhibit Levi Strauss & Co. Lesbian & Gay Employee Association is accepting submissions for its annual art exhibit. Send 6 slides w/ resume/statement to LG&A Art Exhibit, 1155 Battery, SF, CA 94111. Deadline April 18.

G40plus Club Lecture on Qigong and Chinese medicine at the group for older gay men. April 3, 2pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

GCHP Clubhouse Drop-in and hang-out space for gay/bi/questioning Asian and Pacific Islander men. Tuesdays, 7-9pm, 1841 Market at Guerrero. 575-3931.

Good Friday Services MCC's pre-Easter service of choral music and worship. April 1, 7pm. 150 Eureka at 18th. 863-4434.

Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic Free medical care for people with HIV. 487-5632.

HIV Case Management Network Information, referral, benefits counseling, financial assistance and other services provided free for Sonoma County residents with HIV/AIDS. (707) 544-1586.

HIV Support Group Twelve consecutive Wed. eves at St. Mary's Medical Center. 750-5834.

International G/L Human Rights Commission Volunteers needed now to fight rights violations. (510) 547-1502.

Living Sober Seeks acts for their annual talent show to be held April 16, 8:30pm, at the Women's Building. Call by April 9. 387-1805.

Men Together Group talks to help boost safe sexual behavior, as well as other topics, for gay and bisexual men of color in Alameda County. Volunteers also being trained now. (510) 790-3305.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group Ongoing groups, also meetings for friends, lovers and family. Volunteers needed as well. 863-1581.

Not So Straight Talk Teen lesbian, gay, bi support group in Santa Cruz. Men's groups, too. (408) 457-1441.

Oakland EMA HIV Planning Council Seeks new members, specifically members of the HIV community, to guide Alameda County AIDS funding. (510) 268-4185.

Our Lives on the Line Writing group for young gay/bi/transgender men of color. Meets Tuesdays at 5:30pm. Brothers Network, 625 O'Farrell. 703-6152.

Pacific Friends South Bay gay male social group for Asians and their friends. (408) 294-9625.

Pagan Faggot Rituals Jack Davis hosts classes in Radical Faerie group ritual fun. April 2, 1-5pm. Davis adds a sexual perspective on April 3. Also 1-5pm. \$10-30 each class. 848 Divisadero at McAllister.

PAWS Protest Fight the decimation of the pet/PWA services group. Board of Directors meeting open to the public, April 5. 6pm. 539 Castro. 641-5567.

Sadhana Brothers Gay men interested in Hindu-based spirituality. Meets monthly. 647-4388.

San Francisco Fringe Riders All-women's country western dance team seeks new members. 894-5865.

Spectrum Lesbian, gay & bisexual support groups for parents, kids, spirituality, HIV wellness and other topics. 457-1115.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth. (510) 530-8529.

Wall Street Project Practical assistance for those filing complaints of sexual orientation or HIV discrimination. (510) 869-1399.

Women's Action Coalition Alliance of activists meets every Tuesday, 7:30pm, at Build, 483 Guerrero. (510) 869-2584.

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Are Queers Digital?

by Michael C. Botkin

A speaker at a recent poetry performance claimed that, in effect, gays were instrumental in blocking the attempted neo-Communist coup that rocked Russia in 1991. The right-wingers had lists of

interpretation!

Unlike the New Testament, which purports to give the single and monolithic Truth, the Talmud — and the Jewish culture based on it — assumes not only that the truth is debatable, but also that the debates about it are debatable. This core belief that skepticism and contention are a necessary part of determining truth predisposes Jews toward the practice of law.

Queers are digital partly for opportunistic reasons, which are pretty easy to see, but also for intrinsic ones, which are harder to get a line on.

Fostering nerdiness

Contemporary queerness is pretty much an urban, middle-class phenomenon, born of the age of capitalism and the rampant individualism which it has fostered. This is an opportunistic factor: gays just happened to blossom in numbers at the outset of the modern age which is when computers also emerged. I don't think anyone believes that one caused the other, but the two occurred at about the same time and also in the same places — and this was one general factor supporting their convergence.

The rise of computers led to an entirely new industry and also to a new type of professional, the techie (or hacker or programmer or "digital type" or computer nerd). And while most of the already established professions had rigid boundaries, and sometimes also rather specific taboos against homosexuals, the growing computer industry was a blank slate, an unformed community and one that needed every person it could recruit.

The top managers and owners of the new industry weren't a particularly liberal crowd, but the profession as a whole was. Stodgy, conservative types just didn't go digital the way younger, more open-minded, unconventional people did. When a disproportionate number of gays showed up at the computer revolution, they found an atypical lack of barriers and a surprisingly warm welcome. This was another "opportunity" facilitating the proliferation of "digital queers."

But intrinsic factors were, I suspect, the key. Specific genes for interior decorating and women's rugby aside, the people who eventually "come out" as openly gay tend to be social deviants. Perhaps this deviancy encourages the queerness or vice versa; the test-tubers haven't pinned this one down yet. This sense of "difference" often translates into social isolation (which usually increases the deviancy).

This cycle clearly fosters nerdiness, which is universally acknowledged to be a prerequisite for computer savvy. It also promotes a solitary lifestyle much like that of the computer nerd. A high-school age boy not interested in sports or a girl cool to the idea of pleasing boys find few friends. They are far more likely than their peers to seek the escape of the Internet, that sketchy collection of bulletin boards which someday will be the "Data Superhighway." While Christian youth



are passively tuned into TV evangelism to learn the unitary truth, acquired through revelation, the young digital queers are learning to discover truth and themselves by exploration and interaction.

Linked genes?

It would be nice to say that there are no Christians on the Data Superhighway, but that would be overstating it. Even so, that milieu is heavily weighted in our favor. If you were to line up the queer computers on one side and the Christian ones on the other, we'd outnumber and outshoot them something awful, and everyone knows it. Consider the recent conflict over Apple Computer's move to Texas, one of the few clear-

cut gay victories in a very unqueer year. The economic and political clout of the high-tech crowd steamrolled the local fundamentalist reactionaries who balked at allowing the presence of a company that offered "domestic partner" benefits.

The televangelists, with their large and compliant audiences, can generate incredible numbers of letters to legislators, advertisers and the media. But in the e-mail medium, rapidly growing in importance, queers can easily dominate. Not long ago a major bank was pressured into explicitly adding gays to its anti-discrimination policy by an e-mail letter campaign organized by GLAAD (the local Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Against Defamation; good work, folks!).

This trend bodes well for our movement. Gays and lesbians have already started organizing within the computer community, for example, the newly formed group Digital Queers. General and specific factors have converged to throw this plum into our laps. The televangelists will become just a half-dozen minor stations out of 600, while the queers (in the broadest possible sense of the word) inherit the increasingly digital world. I don't know how digital savvy is connected to queerness — perhaps we should look for linked genes? — but this confluence may have saved Russia, and it may yet save us. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 183677

The following person is doing business as DANIEL DALLABRIDA & ASSOCIATES CORPORATE COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS, 61-A Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114; SAILING SHIP, INC. - CALIFORNIA OPERATION, 718 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date June 1, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DANIEL DALLABRIDA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 23, 1994.

March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 1993. L-183677

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 184144

The following person is doing business as THE GALLEON BAR AND GRILL, 718 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94114; SAILING SHIP, INC. - CALIFORNIA OPERATION, 718 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date August 20, 1992. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed SHERMAN LUM, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 9, 1994.

March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 1993. L-184144

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 958750

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of DANIEL LEE PICKELHEIMER for change of name. The application of DANIEL LEE PICKELHEIMER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that DANIEL LEE PICKELHEIMER has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to DANIEL LEE HACKER. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4, on the 12th day of April 1994 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 22nd day of February, 1994.

March 10, 17, 24, 31, 1994. L-958750

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Palm Springs California, a destination for everyone.
By Jim Kavanaugh

Palm Springs, California, is now generally acknowledged among gays to be the first choice of travel destinations - overtaking and now far ahead of older resorts both in numbers of gay men and women visitors and also the wide diversity of its gay hotels, restaurants, nightlife and natural tourist attractions.

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Catching Up With David Drake

Older,
Wiser

by Chad Jones

Like many a gay youth, David Drake coveted a golden dream of success and celebrity in Hollywood, but like many such dreamers before him, Drake is turning away from the gold-plated dream and reclaiming his artistic life.

As the sole writer and performer of the hit show *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, Drake hitched himself onto the show business treadmill that would eventually lead him from his hometown of Baltimore to New York, and, eventually, to Hollywood. All the makings of a '90s star seemed to be in place: he was handsome, intelligent and had a hit Off-Broadway show that took him on a national tour (Drake

and his show breezed through San Francisco last year). Small roles in movies like *Philadelphia* and the Martin Scorsese-produced *Naked In New York* promised bigger and better things to come, and the media produced

"I had to hand in my artisthood to be a starlet."

enough good press to grease the publicity machine for months. But something happened on Drake's ascension to stardom. Somewhere between dream and reality, somewhere between *The Valley of the Dolls* and *The Player*, Drake's Hollywood

(Continued on page 41)



David Drake: "Everything they say about Hollywood is true."

Queer Reading
From the
Reading
File

by Wayne Hoffmann

Editor's note: this feature is the first of a monthly series devoted to magazines or particular magazine articles of interest to gay and lesbian readers.

For HIV positive AIDS activist Sean Strub, information is everything. For the 15 years he's been HIV positive, "Being well-informed has been more important than any single pill, potion, or prayer."

And since staying informed has paid off in the long run, Strub is now devoted to helping inform others. To this end he's tirelessly pursued several careers, from gay marketing agent to theatre producer to Congressional candidate. Now Strub has taken on his biggest project to date as publisher of *POZ*, the new lifestyle magazine for

John Kelly in 'Paved Paradise'

Tweaking A Hippy

by Jeremy Quittner

Maybe the '60s is our graveyard for fantasies about the things that we love or hate about American culture. Whether this is

the case or not, we tend to fantasize a lot about this decade, or if we don't, we're told we should. Imitations of fashions from this era can be seen in every boutique window, and its revolutionary slogans grace all the pages of ad-



John Kelly's Joni Mitchell is a slice of yesteryear's consciousness.

vertisements from Benetton to the Banana Republic. We are as powerful as the way we choose to accessorize. Perhaps our nostalgia for the '60s belies a profound anxiety about the impasse mainstream culture has reached. Well, there's nothing wrong with America that a heavy dose of drag and a little genderfuck can't fix.

Enter John Kelly, who has returned to San Francisco with his "revival of a revival," as he phrases it, of *Paved Paradise*, a tribute to Joni Mitchell. The show is really more like a revival of a revival of a revival, because it had its genesis at Wigstock in New York in 1984 and played in San Francisco last year to both popular and critical acclaim.

It is hard to imagine a performer with more impressive

Kelly's critique of Mitchell comes through the wild swings of his falsetto.

credentials than John Kelly. He's the recipient of numerous national grants and awards from the Guggenheim to the NEA and has performed in all of the most infamous and acclaimed theatres both in the U.S. and abroad. It's a challenge to write about Kelly because his performances tend toward simultaneous narratives, more like collages than anything else. He builds his Joni Mitchell character in much the same way. In recreating this popu-

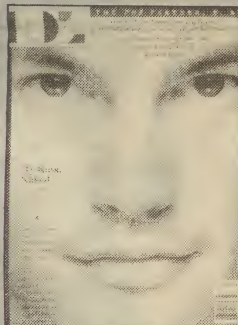
lar icon, he pays tribute to her artistic prowess, but leaves plenty of room for play within the persona. His campy version of Mitchell is not so concerned with "channeling" her directly as disturbing our image of her and, by turns of the '60s.

Paved Paradise is an extended joust at the mores and values of the aging Hippy generation, of which, we can assume, Kelly has been part. Equipped with a shoulder-length blonde wig, dressed in macrame and a flower print skirt, he lights incense and candles to begin the show. Kelly also has the help of two back-up instrumentalists and sometime vocalists, Jonathan Bassill, as Neil Young, and Kenny Mellman (recently of Kiki and Herb fame) as Miss Georgia O'Keefe. (Maybe in future years Kelly will consider using Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan). They provide a humorous counterpoint to Kelly's singing through their doddering antics as aging or dead cultural heroes.

Keen sensibility

Kelly sings his first Mitchell song, "Rainy Night House," in his haunting countertenor. He effectively evokes Mitchell's darkness and thoughtful lyrics. An entire evening of this karaoke might get tedious, but Kelly's keen sensibility keeps it moving along like a mad lark. He re-works the lyrics of the song, so that the familiar end refrain is changed to "You are a refugee from a drag-queen family." It's immediately apparent that he's after farce as well as artful re-representation of her music. All of his alterations refer to drag, so they don't provide any great new insights, but seem like

(Continued on page 36)



people affected by HIV and AIDS. The magazine premieres this month in the United States.

POZ is an impressive publication. The 64-page, bi-monthly includes many big-league names in its masthead: author David Feinberg, columnist Donna Minkowitz, photographer Herb Ritts, just to name a few. Features on Bob Hattoy (President Clinton's highest-ranking HIV positive official) and Ty Ross (Barry Goldwater's HIV positive grandson) are both meaty and well-written. Columns on sex, the arts, and health are funny, political, and personal. Resource guides in the back provide specifics about living with HIV, while news bits up front keep readers up-to-date on political issues. The breadth of material is respectable and the quality of the writing make *POZ* worthy of serious attention.

"*POZ* is geared both to people who are positive as well as people who have been affected by AIDS but who are not themselves HIV-positive," says Strub.

The magazine's initial

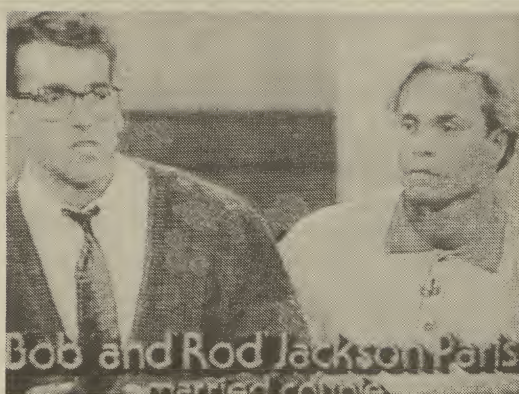
(Continued on page 44)

OutThere

by Orland Outland

You know what the big news is today: Mayor Frank Jordan's impersonation of a sheriff in a sleepy Southern town in a bad TV movie. "Ah doan need no law to 'rest you, son. Ah am the law!" Jordan has as much as ordered the Planning and Police Commissions to hold kangaroo hearings before following his papal bull (so to speak) and refusing to allow the 132 Turk bathhouse to open. How likely is it that the commissioners will do the right thing and refuse to block the opening of a legal business when they know very well that Jordan will fire them for disobeying his imperial edict, just as he fired the Library Commissioners? Watch this space (and try my voice mailbox every few days) for the dates of the public hearings on this issue.

CC Michael Denny: What's going on at St. Martin's Press these days? The publishing house, once the biggest publisher of gay fiction, recently rejected a novel (by a published novelist who wishes to remain anonymous) because it was, in the words of the editor who rejected it,



Well-muscled, whitebread hunks, Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris, do *Phil* as everyone's dream gay "married couple."

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

"too gay." Which doesn't mean that St. Martin's might not be the publisher of Greg Louganis' upcoming autobiography, in which, rumor has it, Louganis plans to tell all, including the details of his relationship with his abusive former boyfriend/manager. And why not? It's not like Louganis is still a professional athlete whose sponsorships could be endangered, and since his acting career has gone nowhere, why, what bet-

ter way to get some publicity than to (finally) come out? (And, like *Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris*, Louganis is just the sort of nice, wholesome, non-offensive faggot publishers and publicists will probably consider "just gay enough.") Watch for the book in stores (and Louganis on *Oprah*) in 1995.

You may have heard about the Jessica Rabbit flap, which came about when someone with too much time

view of Priestley's prize possession. And, I'm told, it's worth the effort.

Oops: I had it from reliable sources attached to the Bill Graham organization that **Barbra Streisand** would be appearing in May at the Oakland Coliseum, but you know by now that that's not the case. I'm sorry if anybody made their vacation plans around the faulty dates.



Boxy Josh Charles (see below), the gay love interest in *Threesome*.

(Photo: Abe Perlstien)

Oh, you beast: Coming April 8, it's *Threesome*, starring Lara Flynn Boyle, Stephen Baldwin and newcomer Josh Charles. Stephen loves Lara, Lara loves Josh, and Josh loves Stephen. How does it all come out? According to *Us*, the film's "startling love scene" had to be shot with an eye on the MPAA's ratings system. Writer/director Andrew Fleming said, "I got this list from the ratings board of things you're not supposed to do — bestiality, love scenes between men. And I thought, this is all the good stuff."



Formerly closeted Olympic gold medalist diver Greg Louganis may now be "just gay enough."

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

on his hands went through the laserdisc of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*? frame by frame until they found Mrs. Rabbit in a Sharon Stone-like position. Well, I'm told by those with better home entertainment equipment than myself that there's an equally titillating shot of Jason Priestley in the video of *Calendar Girl*. Seems that during a shot of Priestley and the boys sunning themselves nude on the beach, there's a point where, if you go frame by frame, you get a great

view of Priestley's prize possession. And, I'm told, it's worth the effort.

Yes, like every other writer in town, I got excited by Will Hearst's proclamation that the "new *Examiner* magazine" would have "no sacred cows." Though it sinks my chances of ever writing for our town's second worst daily (but how good were those chances anyway?), someone's got to say it: the "new" Sunday magazine sucks, because it's exactly the same as the old Sunday magazine, except with more space for furniture ads, thanks to shorter, slicker, stupider articles. In its first issue, the mag "dared" to take on — how bold! — political correctness, did a super-deep ten-paragraph analysis of the Clinton presidency, and put currently overexposed actress Winona Ryder on the cover. Someone obviously wanted the mag to look like *Rolling Stone*, and you know how that goes: Thirtysome-



Wan Winona: overexposed.

(Photo: Rolf Konow)

thing guys who want their hip urban friends to think of them as groovy, yet who don't dare offend their paper's bland 'n' bourgeois core audience, try and please everyone, and end up making a big mess. Yech!

Squibs 'n' squabs: Veronica Klaus' Heart and Soul Revue, featuring the R&B singer's ten-piece orchestra, has been held over through April. It's every Wednesday at the 181 Club, it's only five bucks to get in, and there's "secure valet parking" — so what are you waiting for? ... *Details'* cover story on Morrissey says that the prophet of miserablism's biographer, Johnny Rogan, will follow up his Morrissey bio with "a lengthy investigation" into the allegedly celibate star's romantic liaisons. And does anybody else remember when Mo had such a big crush on Dead or Alive singer Pete Burns that he sent him a dozen dancing boys decked out as sailors for his birthday present? ▼

For tantalizing tidbits of a gossip nature, call 995-2342 for the 411 on who's dropping kicking whom as of late.



A woman to change your stripes for: 19-year-old Hollywood bad girl Drew Barrymore.

If I went straight, it would be for *Movieline* cover girl Drew Barrymore. (Admit it: you, too, loved 2000 *Malibu Road* the whole six weeks it was on the air.) And this blind item from the mag's Hollywood Kids has me stumped; how about you? "When Mr. Handsome (and supposedly hetero) Hunk got a little too sloshed the other

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Dana Adkins and Erica Wyman as **TONYA and NANCY**

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Christine Tamblyn's Women-Friendly CD-ROM

Cyberspace Safe

by Erin Blackwell

Christine Tamblyn seems an unlikely warrior to volunteer for single-handed combat against the Goliath of the new computer technologies currently transforming our lives, often to the exclusion and detriment of women. A fortysomething professor at San Francisco State, albeit with very lively sidelines in

art criticism and performance, Christine Tamblyn looks to me like my ideal maiden aunt.

But then, looks are deceiving. And then again, some of the greatest minds in history have assumed the guise of a maiden aunt to further high cultural purposes beyond the grasp of the rest of humanity. Tamblyn's CD-ROM, "She Loves It, She Loves It Not: Women and Technology,"

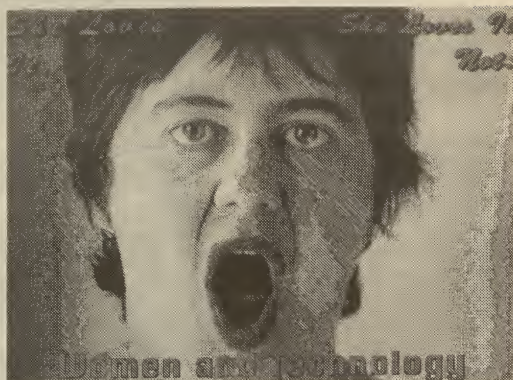
while flaunting the traces of a whimsical, didactic and endearingly auntlike brain, is a no-nonsense declaration of war on male hegemony in the technological marketplace.

Note the militaristic metaphors in the preceding paragraphs. They're so much a part of our language. We're so used to using them and hearing them used, we can easily ignore the way they affect how we think. Issuing from a win/lose mentality, this kind of language not only describes but actually prescribes conflict by dividing the world into *them* and *us*, forcing us to choose sides, and ultimately egging us on to do violence against whatever we've set up as the oppositional other.

The preponderance of such war-think is one of the built-in errors of technology that Tamblyn holds up to the light of her computer screen. "Because computers have evolved as tools built by men, for men, to be used in warfare, the current interfaces tend to have a violent, aggressive character," her artist's statement informs us. "Many of them are still modeled on video games. They are hierarchical, mirroring the military male pyramid with its rigid chain of command."

The gestalt of "She Loves It" is anything but rigidity. Developed at San Francisco State University's multimedia research and development center, in collaboration with students Marjorie Franklin and Paul Tompkins, the CD-ROM deconstructs the common wisdom on everything from robots to women in the workplace, benignly ridiculing our collectively unconscious stereotypes. As concerned with representations of technology as it is with technology itself, the multimedia surprise package is liberally laced with the cooking sherry of free association. From the main menu, an auntie-hierarchical daisy whose petals each represent a thematic loop, to the contradictory modes of discourse ranging from the didactic to the confessional, to the grab-bag of still images and film clips that act as self-parodying (past) visions of the future, this CD-ROM is very serious about not taking itself seriously.

"She Loves It" is also very serious about creating women-friendly computer space.



"One of the strategies for redesigning the interface involved creating this female persona with my own image and voice as a guide to the system," explained Tamblyn at a recent presentation. "The stereotyped personae who have operated in cyberspace have been the cowboy hacker or the neurotic nerd or the Raymond Chandleresque dis-

speculative and didactic, but overwhelmingly whimsical. Witness the following quirkily evocative aside: "Quenching thirst is the most primal human need. Initially, it is fulfilled at the mother's breast. When I was five, my mother began to send me to the corner of the street where we lived, to buy milk from a square machine painted to resemble a giant milk carton. This is how I learned that machines could substitute for mothers."

Despite her own interventions, Tamblyn remains unshakably ambivalent about the use and abuse of interface. "I'm wary about all the rhetoric about empowering people through interactivity with computers, because the potential for interactivity is completely controlled by the programmer." These technologies, she warned, "if we're not careful, are going to be completely dominated by large corporations pushing unilateral products down people's throats, and making a lot of children see it. If we don't make the point, as independent producers, that it is feasible for other people to get involved in making this kind of product."

Past mistress of the double-edged sword, this deceptively auntlike media warrior came up with a militaristic metaphor all her own. "Any time that I speak like this, or do a project like this, I am also a corporate ad for these new and, in many ways, unnecessary technologies," she admitted. "But you know, it's the Trojan horse technique: you slip inside and then you fuck it up." ▼

Editor's note: copies of She Loves It, She Loves It Not are available for \$35 directly from the author. For information, call 931-0150.

Rejecting the false choice of either leaving the field to the forces of patriarchy, or having to play by women-hostile rules, Tamblyn has simply redesigned the interactive environment.

illusioned anti-hero. Because women have found it difficult to identify with these personae, our exclusion from cyberspace has been reinforced."

Rejecting the false choice of either leaving the field to the forces of patriarchy, or having to play by women-hostile rules, Tamblyn has simply redesigned the interactive environment on her own terms. To the extent that computers mirror our minds, "She Loves It" is a reflection of Tamblyn's thought-processes — by turns informative,

ing and couldn't hear her calling for assistance. In a moment's confusion and elation outside, she dimly perceives Georgia, rushes up to her, but hugs a huge cactus instead. Later in the evening, Kelly will ask again if we want to know about her gloves, but the story he tells is a different one. He creates an atmosphere of the dumb leading the blind, where references lose fixed meanings.

Kelly also makes fun of the New Age/Hippy aesthetic. He channels the "Free Range," a small, stuffed, chicken tucked away stage left that begins revolving on command. Or, he invokes the spirit of the Universe: "It's important to ask the universe for what you need...If you really need something, the universe will provide, unless it's

a bag of heroin or something."

Again, the serious part of the evening comes from Kelly's use of his voice. He's a consummate performer, entirely at home on stage, and this is what you feel sitting in the audience watching him. His show is chiefly about enjoyment and pleasure, it's staged in a cabaret after all. He wants to "transcend all the hate and intolerance and have something nice happen." It does. His version of Joni Mitchell is incantatory and hieratic, leading us, as if by ritual, to recapture some aspect of the popular past, bearing in mind that half of singing and song is about joy. ▼

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Theatre

Kevin Heelan's 'Distant Fires'

Race Relations

by Chad Jones

In the wake of the Rodney King riots, there can be no denying that issues of race in this country were inextricably altered. As a nation we became newly focused on inner city violence, police brutality and the alarming lack of progress in race relations. Old wars were renewed — black vs. white — and new wars were declared: black against Korean, Asian against Mexican, gang against gang. Amid such social turmoil, we would like to turn, as we have in the past, to the theater for insight, clarification, or perhaps, with the blessing of an inspired production, emotional truth. Anna Devere Smith's powerful *Fires in the Mirror* is a potent theatrical work that allows detailed examination of race relations in the U.S. at this moment. Not nearly as compelling but interesting in its own way is Kevin Heelan's play *Distant Fires*, now receiving its Northern California premiere at the Actors Theatre.

Written just prior to the L.A. riots in 1992, Heelan's play is already dated. After

the horrifying parade of violence we watched on our television screens and in our streets, Heelan's drama about black and white construction workers seems almost quaint. What dramatic tension there is in the play comes from the central plot point: will Thomas, the qualified black worker, get the union brick-laying job, or will it go to Beauty, the white, underqualified, intellectually-challenged worker? The audience is way ahead of the characters on this one, so the lack of cynicism among the characters seems anachronistic.

As the workers (three black, three white) toil on the roof of a ten-story Ocean City, Maryland building, the smoke from rioting the night before in Cambridge (a black section of town) floats through the air and invades their construction site. The white characters take the form of Angel, a naive high school senior, the aptly named Beauty and the site's uptight foreman, General. The black characters are more developed: Raymond is the older, wiser peacekeeper; Foos is the tough, liquor-swilling thug who challenges his co-workers' racism; and

Thomas is the right-thinking (Foos would call him white-thinking) leader of the group who hopes to improve his position by playing by the rules.

Stilted dramatics

With his characters firmly rooted in stereotype, playwright Heelan does not allow the drama to come from the inner workings of the people he presents. The dialogue is mostly comprised of naturalistic "man" talk: "Fuck, all-right? OK? Pussy, man. OK?" But then when it's time for a point to be made, here comes the monologue. Foos, the brooding brute who lives in the center of the rioting neighborhood, is saddled with some preachy speeches. The problem isn't that the speeches aren't powerful, it's just that the playwright doesn't know when to stop. He consistently underestimates his audience and fails to pull back when a sufficient amount of drama has been dispersed.

The best thing about this Actors Theatre production are the performances. The cast of six works wonders with the set (a realistic, dangerous-looking construction



Will Hughs (left) and Stuart Hall in *Distant Fires*.

site designed by director Bill English) and imbue the silly, grumpy dialogue with enough authentic, testosterone-influenced gusto to make it sing. Director English has wrought two excellent performances from his central characters: Will Hughs is both funny and touching as the narcissistic, more than slightly confused Beauty, and Richard Harder's Thomas is the perfect blend of square-jawed righteousness and blue-collar tenacity. Even if their dramatic centerpiece lacks the internal conflict to carry the play, the actors' characterizations provide numerous interesting moments both powerful and amusing

as they strut and strike out, cower and retreat.

Distant Fires is consistently interesting enough to capture the attention of its audience. Credit this to the direction and the performances. With all the important, intriguing elements inherent in a dramatic presentation of race relations in this country, it's too bad we're not spending our time on plays that speak more from their dramatic hearts and less from their socially conscious, well-intentioned intellects. ▼

Distant Fires
Actors Theatre, through April 23
296-9179

Dance

David Rousseve

Creole Dreamer

by Wendell Ricketts

These days, more than ever, the personal is the political. Nowhere is that more true than in art, where the work of so-called "minorities" has gathered enough momentum to pose a serious challenge to the very concept of "mainstream" arts. (Think of *Angels in America* on Broadway, and the fact that Anna Devere Smith's new show is about to open there; think of some of this season's programming at the Yerba Buena Center or the San Francisco Ballet's first-ever commission of work by an African-American choreographer.)

These are baby steps, arguably, but at least the kid is walking.

New York-based choreographer David Rousseve, who blew into the Bay Area last weekend for the too-brief West Coast premiere of his *Urban Scenes/Creole Dreams*, is one of the finest examples of this "new" wave in American art. *Creole Dreams* is the latest segment in Rousseve's six-part dance-theatre series, *Pull Your Head to the Moon*... *Tales of Creole Women*, which he and his REALITY dance company have been performing since 1988.

Pull Your Head to the Moon is a genuine epic, and *Creole Dreams* continues Rousseve's recounting of the long life and vivid times of his grandmother, the late Thelma Arceneaux. But Rousseve has also woven contemporary realities into the narrative, juxtaposing Thelma's stories of poverty-stricken Louisiana sharecropping,

Jim Crow, and ever-present loss with those of a modern-day African-American gay man coping with AIDS, homophobia, and '90s-style racism.

At first glance, the memories of an arthritic old colored woman may seem to have little to do with the worries of a queer African-American man in the hip-hop generation —

Rousseve asks that we take seriously his message of the redemptive powers of spiritual faith.

and that is, in fact, how Rousseve leads us into *Creole Dreams*. Sitting at her kitchen table, dressed in pink bathrobe, floppy slippers, and bad wig, his grandmother (played by B.J. Crosby) peels apples as Rousseve explains that "everybody's dying and I feel so all alone." Finally he sighs in frustration, "Oh, Grandma, you wouldn't understand."

And for the next two hours, Grandmother Arceneaux makes clear — without self-pity and without taking offense at Rousseve's presumptuousness — exactly how much she does understand. In telling the story of her "two great loves" — her cousin Bobby and her husband, Johnny — and "how she

lost them both so young," Grandmother Arceneaux makes of her memories a kind of extended gospel hymn, literally what used to be called a "spiritual." The chorus, if you will, is the line "Everybody must get something in life they love more than they love themselves," and Rousseve repeats it often during the evening.

One of the most striking aspects of *Creole Dreams* is the structure Rousseve has chosen for Arceneaux's memories. It's not just that the telling is "non-linear." Rather, Arceneaux's life unfolds, for want of a better word, impressionistically.

What Rousseve does is to duplicate onstage the process by which a child begins to relate to the well-worn narratives and semi-myths that are part of nearly every family's unique "culture."

At first, only the most dramatic images stand out, mysterious and without context. As the stories are re-told over time, the discrete elements weave themselves into a more coherent chronology. Finally, perhaps in adulthood — perhaps only after one has undertaken the kind of "journey home" that Rousseve has — these "family stories" are revealed in a full-fledged matrix of history, place, and time. That's the journey that *Creole Dreams* creates.

At one point, for example, Johnny (Kyle Sheldon) moves painfully across the stage, a heavy suitcase on his shoulders. Behind him, four women make the unmistakable chug-and-whistle sounds of a train station. Suddenly, a noose drops from the ceiling. Johnny steps onto a crate, winds his hands into the knot of the noose, and falls. Given the historical context of the piece, it's impossible not to think of a lynching.

Later, however, Rousseve reveals another context:

(Continued on page 41)

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Theatre

Jon Robin Baitz's 'The End of the Day'

Feckless Wonder

by Jerry Metzker

In *The End of the Day*, currently playing at the Magic Theatre, playwright Jon Robin Baitz introduces the audience to Graydon Massey (Bruce McKenzie), a British-born psychiatrist who flees his unhappy, upper class, greedy family in London to live in Malibu, where he marries into an equally unhappy, greedy family. He becomes an American citizen, then splits six years later to open an oncology practice in a run-down public clinic.

And here is where the play begins. He is still unhappy. Everything and everyone torment and threaten him (metaphysically and in reality). His former father-in-law wants Graydon to pay him back for having put him through medical school, for investing in the deserted Malibu practice, and for all the other things he gave to the ingrate who broke his daughter's heart. His ex-wife, a self-proclaimed Jewish princess, wants him to either admit that he loved her once (and mean it), or give her a valuable drawing from his mother's art collection in ex-

change for his life. As if that weren't enough, there's an old college chum who wants him to invest in a movie that's actually a front for a cocaine smuggling operation.

Ultimately, Graydon tosses in the towel and succumbs, not because he's a good person gone to seed or even because the forces around him are so strong, but because he is too lazy, spoiled, and pampered to not give in.

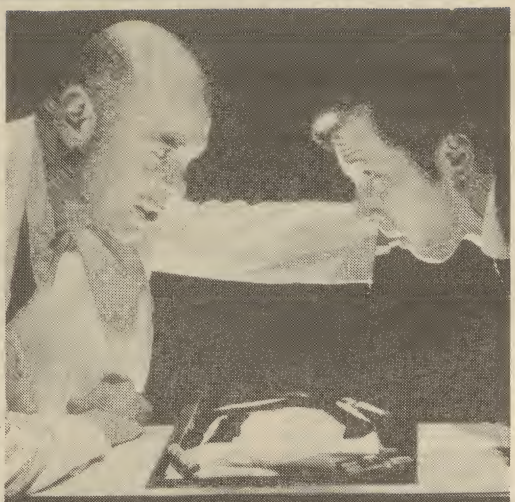
I admit to having a lot of trouble with this play. At first, I thought *The End of the Day* was full of clever arguments and intelligent quotes, a play whose pleasures were purely intellectual, introspective.

And then it struck me that because the play deals primarily with American corruption and changeability then this must be a kind of American morality play. But no. Basically the play is a group of unpleasant characters in unpleasant situations being unpleasant to one another, meaning that the story itself is arbitrary, which seems, well, unpleasant.

However, despite the obvious difficulties one encounters here, it's obvious that Baitz writes aggressively and confidently. Unlike many of his contemporaries whose plays read like movies of the week, this one was clearly meant for today's stage. Its language is rich and enthralling.

Traffic cop

Perhaps in a different director's hands, the play might resonate more. Matthew Wilder directs as if the action of the play entirely eludes him. He's too busy concentrating on pacing, evidenced by the fact that the production moves breathlessly along, encouraging us to brush past, along with the director, all its hard edges, the obvious faults. Wilder even pushes the ac-



Jeremiah Morton (left, Henry Steele), tries to convince Graydon Massey (rt., Bruce McKenzie) to become partners in his drug business in *The End of the Day*.

tors beyond a comfortable and welcoming performance style. Henry Steele is too queeny as Graydon's former college chum turned movie producer/cocaine smuggler. Kenna Hunt is too overwrought as the overworked administrator of the clinic. Leo Downey is too Marlon Brando as the vegetable wholesaler, Mafia don father-in-law (although he is quite enjoyable as Lord Kitterson, Graydon's uncle).

As for Bruce McKenzie, he flails desperately at Graydon. He speaks too loudly, gestures too broadly, and rushes through his lines in a desperate attempt not to bore anyone. It's difficult enough to find a character like this sympathetic and appealing, but McKenzie only makes it harder.

It is certain that many who see *The End of the Day* will think the play is about the corrupting influences of life in the U.S., but it's not. According to Baitz, England is just as corrupt. In fact, *The End of the Day* is a testimony, seemingly, to an amorality that seems to permeate

our world universally. Early in the play one of the characters, reportedly ill with cancer, says, "I am sick of myself." Even so, after he leaves the hospital, he threatens Graydon with a malpractice suit for misdiagnosing his malady.

Perhaps what Graydon (and ultimately Baitz) is searching for is some kind of beauty in life, something sublime that he just cannot grasp. Or, perhaps, Baitz is simply stating that there is no such thing as living beautifully. We just live, and at some point we stop fighting and just go with whatever flow we're in at the time. I don't know. Nobody knows, least of all Graydon, whose own deficiencies could send him back into despair, or off to something else at any given moment. He does not grow or learn from his experiences, and neither do the people who are witnessing his life. At the end of the play, we just get up, put on our coats, and go home. ▼

The End of the Day
Magic Theatre
Thru April 17
441-8822

Suzan-Lori Parks' 'Devotees in the Garden of Love'

Impressive Tapestry

by Jerry Metzker

Thanks to director Paul Codiga and Intersection for the Arts, playwright Suzan-Lori Parks has finally arrived in the Bay Area. From Parks' ever growing and ever titillating oeuvre, the two have mounted a terrific production of *Devotees in the Garden of Love*.

Parks, a young African-American woman, writes plays that cannot be told through traditional play forms. Instead, she creates her own by weaving conversations, monologues, reactions and images into a theatrical tapestry that is striking for the dramatic impression it leaves.

This tapestry begins with two women dressed in wedding gowns sitting on the top of a hill and looking through binoculars into the valley below. The women are Miss Lily, a bride in the past, and her daughter, Miss George, a bride to be.

In the field below them, a

man called "This One" and a man called "That One," each leading his own army, battle for the hand of Miss George. Occasionally, Madame Odella Pandahr, Miss George's teacher, delivers news from the battle, either in person or through the television that Miss Lily borrows from Miss George's hope chest.

These are the basics of the plot, but Parks has an awful lot more going on than this. For example, Miss George feels honored to have men battling over her, but the battle does not come cheaply for her. Little by little, she must surrender the contents of her hope chest to the men in the field to dress wounds — even her bloomers serve as flags. Certainly, having two men fighting over her is exciting, but what exactly will she do with the wounded soul who is the victor and a chest empty of hope?

Bold Strokes

Parks writes in solid, bold strokes. She uses language in a way I have never heard, but

the effect is stunning. Her words fill the air with sounds and images that reconstruct preconceptions of sentence structure, word definition, and the formality of conversation. This definitely makes her language hard to follow, but not impossible, and at times, what you hear is absolutely thrilling.

Instead of chronicling a chain of events leading to a conclusion, the play is a series of poems woven into a unifying image. This image presents a view of the life of African-American women that is both beautiful and sad. The battle for Miss George may be glorious to behold, but is the outcome worth it?

This Intersection production is blessed with an able director and three fine actors. Edris Cooper as the wheelchair-bound Miss Lily is remarkable. Given only a tiny bit of stage to act in, she transcends the space by filling the theater with emotion and energy. As Miss George and Madame Odella Pandahr,

(Continued on next page)

Queer Rock Scene Thrives

Hey, Let's Mosh

by Adrian Roberts

The rumors are true. Yes Virginia, there is a queer rock scene in San Francisco. And not only is it alive and well

is partially due to the increasing number of venues willing to book queer acts. Sure it took a few years, but many bands now have large enough followings to warrant shows at spaces like DNA, Cafe Du



Oh those buck-toothed varmints.

but, with few exceptions, it kicks ass.

Indeed, spring has sprung and it seems like queer bands in this city are coming out of the woodwork. The past few weeks have seen a slew of fags and dykes gracing city



Allisan Hennessey of Random Violets.

stages, and this coming week promises more of the same. So, to borrow a line from that hit song by Linda Perry, the recently-out 4 Non-Blondes vocalist, "What's going on?"

This recent surge in talent

Nord and Bottom of the Hill. And lest we forget, there are still queer clubs unafraid to book up-and-coming artists like Diet Popstitute's venerable Klubstitute, which is now happening every Tuesday night at the Stud.

I'm very happy to report that over at Faster Pussycat at The Pit, Downtown Donna is now showcasing bands every week. (Which, as of April 13th, will once again be held on Wednesday nights.) Her recent bookings have been good, with line-ups including the Hail Marys, Sugarfix, Demimonde Slumber Party, Fagbash, and Random Violet.

Let me take this opportunity to say that Random Violet rocks my world. Seeing them for the first time only a few weeks ago confirmed my suspicions that lead singer Allison Hennessey is a goddess. Her androgynous beauty, manic stage presence, and amazing voice make her one hell of a captivating performer. Whether she's singing about S/M girl sex or the decline of Western civilization, she belts 'em out with grace and style. The other band members, John Zimmerman and Mark Derbin are no slouches either. And drummer Jamie Sanbonmatsu, who writes most of the lyrics, looks absolutely fetching in a black vinyl dress.

Last Friday I ventured across the bay to check out

Matt Wobensmith's Outpunk Records Showcase at Berkeley's all-ages punk rock space, 924 Gilman Street. Sort of a pre-promotional show for the upcoming Outpunk Dance Party compilation CD, the evening was, to quote Jon Ginoli of Pansy Division, "inspiring." For me it was one of the most positive punk shows I'd ever been to. I missed the debut performance of Aunt Fister, a newly-formed dyke band, but I did catch the last few songs by the Mukilteo Fairies, a hardcore fag-fronted punk band from Olympia, Washington. Their songs are all short, fast and furious, but they seem to suffer from the same problem plaguing most bands of this genre — it all sounds the same. Besides, what good are queer lyrics if you can't understand them?

Headlining was Pansy Division, who played a bunch of witty new songs from their forthcoming June release, *Deflowered*. But the real stars of the evening were Tribe 8, who just keep getting better and better (especially with their recent line-up change in the rhythm section). They hit hard, like a tightly balled-up fist, and their intensity was alleviated only slightly by singer Lynn Breedlove's humorous between-song asides. A note to the girls in Tribe 8: your new drummer, Slade, kicks ass. Don't ever lose her.

As for upcoming shows, the Breeders are playing tonight at the Warfield. According to Outpunk, bassist Josephine Wiggs is a dyke, so no doubt there will be nu-

merous queers in attendance. Afterwards, bring your ticket stub to Faster Pussycat and get a dollar off admission, to check out the bands Frog-S. and Poppy, the latter an all-girl band from Santa Cruz.

The planets must be in some sort of weird alignment on April Fool's Day, because this Friday features no less than five shows of queer interest. Kudos to Nancy Kravitz for bringing Female Trouble back, this time to Bottom of the Hill. Headlining is the awesome Girl Jesus, a sort-of riot grrrl dyke band from Los Angeles. And show up early to catch the "dykeabilly" of the Bucktooth Varmints. I generally don't like country or rockabilly, but the Varmints bring enough wit and charm to their act to win over even a jaded music snob like me.

Another great line-up that evening is at a free show at Slim's, featuring three of the best female-fronted bands in the city. Valerie Statler's powerful voice alone is reason enough to check out Spokepoker, and Wade's mix of guitar and violin is quite potent. And Seven Day Diary? They just rock, and I mean that in a good way.

Though not exactly my cup of tea, many have been won over by Me'Shell Ndegocello, the young, African-American lesbian who will bring her mix of hip-hop, jazz, and funk to Bimbo's, also on April 1. And for those into ethereal arti-



Me'Shell Ndegocello

ness (and who isn't?) the Cocteau Twins play the Warfield Friday and Saturday. As if that weren't enough, queer techno-house duo Gravity will perform live at Inner Active, a one-time-only interactive cyber-rave party at the Trocadero. Who said there was nothing to do on Friday nights?

Last but not least, if you haven't seen Tribe 8 yet, check them out this Saturday at Komotion (2779 16th & Folsom), where they play a benefit for Rafiki House, an African American halfway house for people with HIV. Come on — where else are you going to mosh for a good cause? ▼

BRAD ERIKSEN

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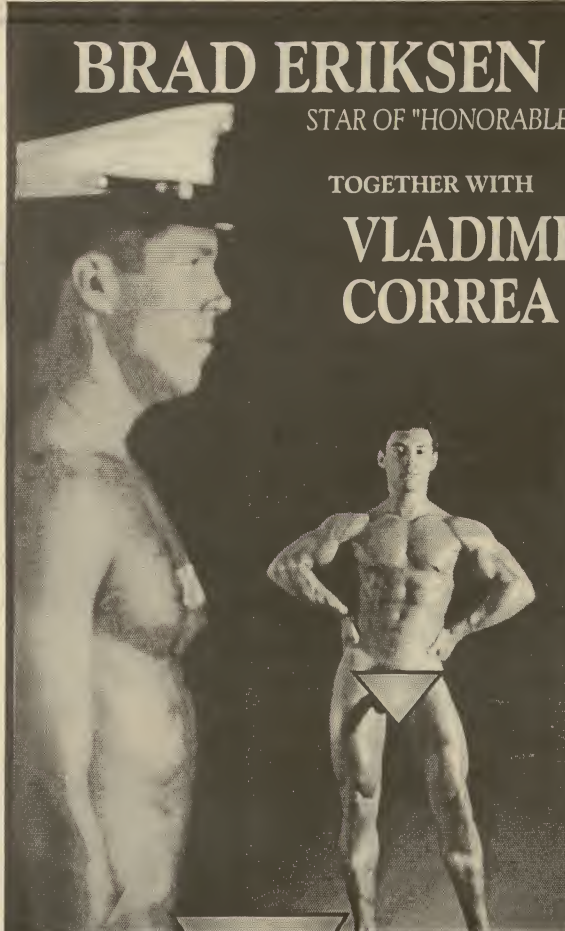
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(Continued from previous page)

Hallyne B. Harris and Tanya Mayo are excellent.

Codiga's plain, simple direction allows Parks' dialogue to flow unencumbered. Less is definitely more here. In effect, he has hung this magical tapestry in a well-lit place where the bold colors grab our attention and the images are clear.

Of course, one look may not be enough. This tapestry has much to reveal, perhaps more than can be gleaned from a single viewing. So does Parks, and now that she has visited the Bay Area, I hope she returns often. ▼

Devotees in the Garden of Love Intersection for the Arts, through April 17 626-2787

Books

Sol Hurok: The Great Achiever

The Last Impresario: The Life, Times and Legacy of Sol Hurok
by Harlow Robinson; Viking; \$26.95

by Roberto Friedman

Sol Hurok was probably the greatest impresario of all time, responsible for bringing classical music legends like Mstislav Rostropovich, Artur Schnabel, Isaac Stern and Van Cliburn to Carnegie Hall, staging Marian Anderson's historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial, and introducing American audiences to the Bolshoi, the Kirov and the Royal Ballet. Harlow Robinson, author of the just-published biography, *The Last Impresario*, says Hurok "really created an audience for dance in this country that did not exist before."

Robinson, who also wrote a prominent biography of Sergei Prokofiev, was in town for the recent seminar on Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* at the San Francisco Ballet. The subject of his current book, like the last, was a figure with an ego of classic dimensions. Essentially the conduit through whom the world's great ballet companies first conquered America, he also jump-started the careers of modern dance pioneers Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham and Agnes de Mille.

Without Hurok's Herculean efforts, Russian dance and culture might never have

reached these shores during the deep freeze of the Cold War. "His life, in fact, is the story of the development of Russian-American cultural relations," Robinson told me. Before Hurok, Americans conceived of ballet as an effete, rarefied entertainment. Male dancers were ignored by reviewers, leery of their dubious sexuality (the great Nijinsky was suspect for his "effeminacy" as well as for his affair with Diaghilev.) Hurok not only carved out a mainstream niche for ballet, he destroyed limp-wristed stereotypes of male dancers by presenting the virile, athletic men of the Bolshoi and Kirov, as well as Nureyev. (Robinson also relates the priceless anecdote of Hurok backstage, imploring male dancers to stuff tissue paper in the front of their tights, "to satisfy the ladies.")

Hurok emerges as a character with great charisma, although many aspects of his personality were decidedly unattractive: his neglect of his first wife and daughter, his shame of his Old World roots, his willingness to suppress criticism of the Soviet regime in order to curry favor, and his ruthless behavior toward his employees. Still, Robinson says, "I don't subscribe to the school of 'pathography,' as

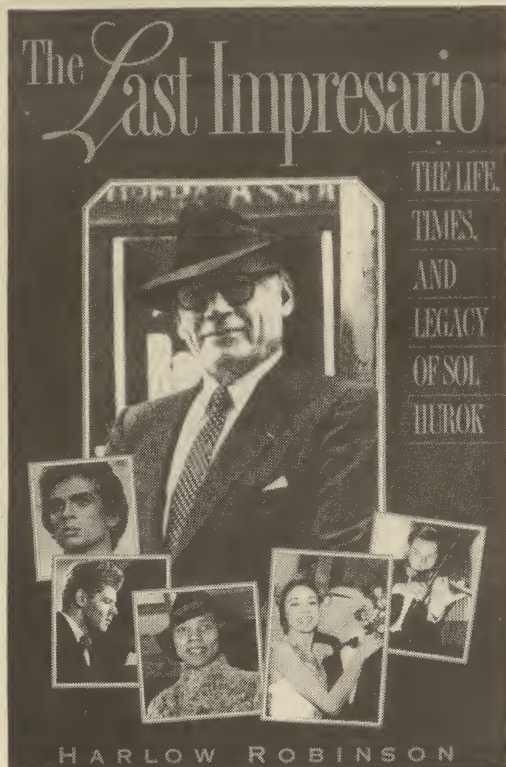
Joyce Carol Oates has called it, of writing a biography of someone you're just going to tear to pieces, which seems to have become somewhat popular in recent years."

Whatever else his faults, Hurok was definitely not a homophobe, according to Robinson. "He always regarded [dealing with gays] as part of the business. When I interviewed Nureyev, clearly he felt very warmly about Hurok in that regard. There were always a lot of gay people who worked in the Hurok office. And one of his very closest friends was notorious for chasing men in Russia and here. He was Hurok's best buddy."

One of the pleasures of reading *The Last Impresario* is experiencing Hurok's mangled English, the remnants of his Yiddish diction which Robinson has taken pains to keep intact: "The way he spoke was so much a part of who he was." Hurok, on meeting rock impresario Bill Graham: "It says here, you got lots guts and balls. S'true?" A chapter is titled after his pronunciation of the Tchaikovsky ballet as *Slipping Beauty*.

Unintentional Humor

The entertainment value of the backstage foibles of prima donnas and international stars is also high. The byzantine intrigues and internecine rivalries of dueling companies of the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo are hilarious. Then there's the deep dish. Balanchine calls Isadora Duncan "a drunken, fat woman who for hours was rolling around like a pig." De Mille calls Hurok "a peasant and a midget." And of course Hurok goes to any lengths for his publicity coups, such as his packaging of the famed "baby ballerinas" Irina Baronova, Tamara Toumanova



va and Tatiana Riabouchinska. Hurok knew that even scandal — such as Nureyev and Dame Margot Fonteyn's escape from a police raid on a pot party by leaping across Haight-Ashbury rooftops — made for great copy.

Demonized

The great impresario himself was often on the front page of *The New York Times*, and in 1972 found himself the Number One target of the Jewish Defense League, which bombed his office, killing one employee. He was demonized by the radical Jewish right, who found him a traitor to his people for appeasing the Soviets while the totalitarian regime refused to

let Russian Jews emigrate.

If Sol Hurok is no longer a household name, he was the Great Achiever of the entertainment industry of his time. And if cultural institutions no longer depend on private promoters and instead rely on non-profit status and government support of the arts, it's a change Hurok himself helped to create. By calling for the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts, Hurok effectively put himself out of business, the last of a breed. Harlow Robinson makes a lasting contribution by capturing the essence of a larger-than-life impresario who started the careers of some of the century's most stellar talents.

A Delectable Don't Miss

When Moss Hart wrote *Light Up the Sky* in 1948, he could hardly have known his play would

mark the end of an era. Although both Hart and frequent collaborator George S. Kaufman still had a few musicals up their sleeves, there were to be no more large-cast, three-act comedies like *The Man Who Came to Dinner* or *You Can't Take It With You*. Fortunately, ACT's brilliant revival of *Light Up the Sky* easily whisks us back to those heady days of Broadway.



Hart's savage, yet affectionate, satire presents the entire company of a Broadway-bound play in a hotel suite in Boston. On the evening of their first performance, Hart's first act finds them indulging in a festival of self-love. The second act — after their show has bombed — finds them shredding each other in a frenzy of blame-laying, hysterically clawing to extricate their damaged egos from the wreckage. Then, Act Three, a deus-ex-machina in the form of a Shriner's convention, of all things, and, even more improbably, the reviews. Suddenly, they're once again swearing undying devotion.

Director Albert Takazukas lays a skillful, but not always light, hand on the proceedings. Half of his cast are caricatures, but the others — including Will Marchetti as the producer, Bruce Williams (looking snappy in evening clothes) as a veteran playwright, and, in particular, Joy Carlin as the star's grumpy mother — bring heroic size and memorable comedy to their creations. Since it's generally well-directed, handsomely mounted and dressed, and is the only revival of *Light Up the Sky* I've ever encountered, I'd call this a delectable don't miss. At the Marines Memorial Theatre through May 8; (415) 749-2ACT.

—John F. Karr

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Profile

Drake

(Continued from page 33)

detour distracted him from the writing and performing that he now says he values more than celebrity.

In town to promote the newly published version of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, the 30-year-old Drake said Hollywood just didn't know what to do with a young gay actor who refused to be stereotyped. "Gee, what to do with David Drake," he mused. "He's not a stand-up comedian. He's not a straight-acting, straight-appearing actor who has to say in an ultra-butth voice, 'Hey, I'm gay!' like the ones on sitcoms do. It seemed, after a while, they were only calling me in for things in which I had to wear a dress."

Sick of Hollywood

If Drake sounds bitter, he is. After filming an episode of Bob Newhart's show *Bob*, Drake was cut from the final version. After filming *Naked In New York*, Drake was cut from the final version. After filming a bit for Comedy Central's *Out There for Comedy*, Drake was cut from the final version. He was up for the gay role on *Melrose Place*. He didn't get it. He was up for the role of Mouse in *Tales of the City*. He didn't get that either.

"I'm leaving Hollywood," Drake said. "I can't stand it there anymore. I don't want to live in that environment. The big parts clearly go to heterosexual actors, and they call it acting. The gay parts that go to gay actors are minor and sexless in a way I am

not. I go up for off-beat characters, you know, wimps, and it's just not the energy I give. I don't fit the roles they write for gay characters. Physically, my jaw's too strong. 'You're too good looking,' they tell me. 'But you're not football-player good looking, and that's what we want.' It's so frustrating because they are forcing us to conform to a straight gender role."

"I don't want gay people to see this and think I'm selling out for some cameo in *It's Fuckin' Pat*."

After six months in Los Angeles, Drake plans to move back home to New York, but before he can do that he has to finish the promotional tour for his book and co-star in a small, independent film called *Objects*, starring Anne Cusack, John and Joan's sister. Drake can also look forward to the release of *It's Pat*, a movie based on the "Saturday Night Live" character created by Julia Sweeney. Drake has been assured that he will not end up on the cutting room floor this time, which pleases him. *It's Pat* was something of a struggle for Drake. Originally tapped as a co-star, Drake eventually lost out to David Foley of Canada's "Kids In the Hall," but



producers liked Drake and asked him to make a cameo appearance as a hairdresser, but Drake drew the line at stereotype: "I will do this, but I'm not going to give you Rip Taylor or Paul Lynde or any of that shit. I won't do that because I don't want straight people laughing at me. I am gay, and I don't want gay people to see this and think I'm selling out for some cameo in *It's Fuckin' Pat*, you know? I mean, come on," Drake, the writers, and the director hashed out the details of the character over a weekend, and in the end, all were pleased. The hairdresser is, in Drake's words, a "techno, Soho Dr. Frankenstein" with a Caesar haircut, black clothing and rubber gloves. "After all the negotiating, I think we

were able to come up with something good," Drake said. "We'll see. For all I know it could look like a flaming queen and I could be way off."

Jaded, but not defeated

Reflective and a bit downbeat, Drake said he did learn a great deal from his sentence in Hollywood. "I learned about how the business works very differently in Hollywood than it does in New York," he said. "I've learned about patience. I got very tired, and I got very close to hopelessness. I've also learned about being alone and about what my friends mean to me. I have all this anxiety, and it's all rooted in Hollywood. I

thought I would be able to control it, that I would be able to juggle it. I was wrong. I just wasn't big enough. I don't mean a big enough star, I mean I'm not capable of playing all those games. I got screwed in a variety of ways by people. Every story, every play and every movie you see about Hollywood is saying the same damn thing: these are people with no morals, etc. I am here to tell you the cliché is absolutely true. I'm a good business person, an aggressive business person, but there's something that happens to people's value systems there. It's been a valuable lesson to me, but it's taken a lot of valuable time away from my writing.

"I'm an artist, and I haven't been valuing that. I had to hand in my artisthood to be a starlet. The last year has been about growing up. Now I just have to tell myself, 'Don't confuse celebrity with artist. Step away from that. Let's go back and create.'" ▼

Corrections and Omissions

In last week's review of Ferron's concert by Mara Math, a reference to the singer's "elegant voice" should have read "elegiac voice."

Three photos by San Francisco photographer Marc Geller that ran in last week's entertainment section were uncredited to Mr. Geller: two photos of author Dennis Cooper and one of KQED reporter Betsy Bayha. ▼

Rousseve

(Continued from page 37)

When Thelma makes a surprise visit to the depot where Johnny works, she and their daughter discover that Johnny is no engineer, as he has claimed. Rather, he hauls white folks' luggage and jumps when they call. "Daddy ain't nothin' but a boy," his daughter exclaims. In humiliation and rage, Johnny hangs himself. But the lynching image is established, and Rousseve is clearly suggesting that what really killed Johnny is racism.

And it's in that kind of detail that *Creole Dreams* finds itself on marshy ground. Art in general — and particularly "political" art — succeeds best when it is most specific. The idea that "racism" kills Thelma's two great loves — and, in Rousseve's metaphor, that homophobia is what kills people with AIDS — is almost too flimsy a framework. Both statements are true in a general way, but it's in separating the local from the eternal that art finds the ability to hook our hearts.

Still, *Creole Dreams* shows Rousseve as a master at story-telling; he's better at it, in some ways, than he is at choreography. The movement in *Creole Dreams* is interesting but unremarkable, and Rousseve is at his most commanding when he simply stands downstage at a microphone and talks, about attend-

ing the first day of integrated school or about the "flicted" pet rat he loved as a child.

In the end, Rousseve asks without self-consciousness that we take seriously his message — or, perhaps better said, Grandmother Arceneaux's message — of the redemptive powers of spiritual faith. In these days of gender-neutral Haggadahs, religious services wherein God is nevermore "the father," and of Christ-less "holiday seasons" — in which Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and even Wicca are more or less clumped together in such a way that no one's traditions actually get much respect — Rousseve's unabashed Christian worshipfulness is both challenging and immensely intriguing.

When, as the finale, B. J. Crosby lets drop the pink robe, the wig, and other accoutrements she has worn as Grandmother Arceneaux, all the while singing a heart-stopping rendition of "Amazing Grace," Rousseve's message is clear: He is determined to gather together all his traditions — his family's history of surviving racism, their religious faith, the trials and triumphs of both his African-American ancestors and his gay ones, the strength he draws from his grandmother and from women in general, and his own experiences as an artist and a gay man — into a kind of medicine bag that he can wear forever close to his body. In fact, its medicine is potent enough to reach every body in the house. ▼



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Summer Bowling Leagues: Hot Diversion

by Miyeko Keen

If you're looking for a little summer diversion from the softball scene, or if you're feeling a little out of shape after spending all winter on that couch watching TV, then maybe joining a summer bowling league is just what the doctor ordered.

San Francisco's gay friendly bowling centers, Park Bowl and Japantown Bowl, have a number of exciting gay summer leagues starting up soon for individuals of all skill levels.

Park Bowl begins its summer league season this week. Summer leagues run anywhere from 12 to 20 weeks and cost just \$10.50 per bowler.

The Tavern Guild Monday Trios is an early evening, three-person team league starting at 6:15 p.m. This league's first evening of bowling is Monday, March 28. The Tavern Guild Wednesday, which begins March 30, is a great way to spend those long summer nights. The league starts at 8:30 p.m., and teams will consist of four people.

If you're just getting back into the swing of bowling,

dust off that ball and try a shorter 12-week summer league session. The Tavern Guild Thursday is a four-person team league beginning at 6:45 p.m., May 5, and runs through the beginning of August. For more information on Park Bowl leagues, call Mal Garcia at (415) 776-1324.

Japantown Bowl provides a wide variety of leagues that entice bowlers with a new bowling ball and bag (depending on what league you're on), or a trip to Tahoe.

Beginning the first week in May, Japantown Bowl runs five summer leagues, Sunday through Friday. For novices, the Japantown Monday Ball and Bag League is one of the best bets. Each bowler in the league receives a new bowling ball and bag at the end of the summer session, plus discounts on bowling equipment. The league begins at 8:45 p.m., Monday, May 2.

The Tuesday Community League is one of the most competitive in San Francisco and tests the bowling acumen of some of San Francisco's best gay bowlers. Even if you're a beginner, you'll find the competition stimulating and a great way to improve your game. The league bowls

at 8:45 p.m. and begins in May.

The Wednesday Community League is one of Japantown's longest running and most popular leagues. This is also an 8:45 p.m. league scheduled to start at the beginning of May.

The Sunday Tahoe League culminates with a trip at the end of the summer to Lake Tahoe. Weekly bowling fees include Tahoe trip costs. The package includes transportation, room, and some gambling tokens. This league starts at 6 p.m. and is scheduled to begin the second week in May.

Other Japantown summer leagues currently underway include an afternoon Thursday league and an early evening Friday league. There are a few spaces available in these latter leagues.

If you would like to join a summer league at Japantown Bowl, please call Dean Tyrrell at (415) 921-6200.

Now there's no excuse for spending all those rapidly approaching summer nights on the couch watching TV. Get up, get out and make the season a social event by joining a summer bowling league. ▼



Gay Games '94

Games Extend Registration

Organizers of Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival have announced that the deadline for athlete registration has been extended from March 31 to April 18 in sports with available space. In addition, the \$50.00 late registration fee has been waived.

Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival, which will be held June 18-25, is an Olympic-style sporting and cultural event open to all. At this point organizers are expecting more athletes to participate in the Gay Games than participated in the 1992 Summer Olympics. Gay Games IV competitions will be held in 31 team and individual sports in venues located throughout metropolitan New York.

Due to an overwhelming response in registrations, several sports have already reached or approached capacity. Tennis, which is being contested at the United States Tennis Association's National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, site of the U.S. Open, was the first sport to hit capacity, with over 600 registrants. Swimming, volleyball, squash, martial arts and badminton are very close to maximum participation numbers, but are still accepting athletes.

As of March 17, nearly 8,500 participants have signed up for athletic events. Registrations have come in from 31

countries, including the Czech Republic, Ghana, Malaysia and Peru.

"Our registration numbers have been fantastic so far," noted Roz Quarto, Director of Operations at Gay Games IV. "But with the extension of the deadline and the removal of the late fee, we're making our event accessible to many more athletes."

Individuals experiencing difficulty finding teams to play on in team sports can contact the Games Team

**Registrations
have come in
from 31
countries,
including the
Czech
Republic,
Ghana,
Malaysia and
Peru.**

Matching Coordinator Jane Coban at 212-877-3941. Already, softball players from New Zealand have been hooked up with New York athletes on the New York International squad.

For more information about registration for Gay Games IV, call 1-212-633-9494. ▼

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Sports Guide

Basketball

San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team. Call Susan at 648-4931.

Men's Basketball — call Tony at 621-2710.

Bicycling

Different Spokes Bicycle Club promotes noncompetitive cycling for men and women on both road and mountain bikes. Rides each weekend, plus regular "Sunday Socials" each Sunday at 10 a.m., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. For schedule or newsletter, please call (415) 282-1647 or write PO Box 14711, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Boating

Barbary Coast Boating Club — gay boat owners and enthusiasts meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Berkeley Yacht Club, Berkeley Marina. West to the end of University Ave., #1 Seawall Drive, (415) 905-6267.

Bodybuilding

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society — call 978-9495 or write ABS, 1230 Market Street, SF, CA 94114.

Bowling

Women's Business Bowling League. Call Ann at 641-5795.

Tavern Guild Bowling League. Call Mal Garcia at 752-2366.

Japantown Bowl. Mon., Tues., Wed.: Community Leagues at 8:45 p.m. Thurs.: Bartender's League at 1 p.m. Fri: Trio's League, 6 p.m. and Sun: Reno League, 6 p.m. Call Dean Terrell at 921-6200 for information.

East Bay Gay and Lesbian Bowling League meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Teams/individuals of all skill levels are welcome. Contact Mark at 510-797-6997 for information.

Golden Gate Classic League: Meets Thursday night at 7 p.m. Four-person team. Classic Bowling Center, 900 King Drive in Daly City. Call Don George, 255-9401, for information.

Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club, a fully sanctioned USABF (United States Amateur Boxing Federation) meets Thursday at 8 p.m. Open to all interested gay men and lesbians; all skill levels are welcome. Call Greg at 585-2365.

Football

Women's Flag Football: Interested women call Maureen (415) 479-1331.

San Francisco Trojans Football. Two games every Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Silver Terrace near Silver and Bayshore, SF. All skill levels welcome. Call Gary at 344-8873.

Hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club — Call Clyde at 285-1260.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, official activity section of the Sierra Club. Call the hotline: 281-5666.

South Bay GLS — call the Loma Prieta GLS hotline at 408-236-2170.

Racquet and Paddle Sports

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation — John McEnhill, 864-0187, extension 4. Informal social doubles every Saturday and Sunday morning at the Flint and 16th Street tennis courts, weather permitting.

Table Tennis Anyone? Practice Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Milberry Union, UCSF, 500 Parnassus, SF. Call Allen Balderson, 626-1787, or Lucie, 387-4476.

Running

San Francisco FrontRunners. Fun runs at Stow Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park, every Saturday, 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows. Call John at 863-0954.

San Francisco Track & Field, practice every Tues. and Thurs., 6 p.m., and Sun., 10:00 a.m., at Kezar Stadium on Waller & Stanyan streets, SF. Call Rick 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380 or Lois Allen at 586-6013.

Scuba Diving

Northern California Rainbow Divers: Lesbian and Gay Scuba Club for the active diver in Northern California. Meets second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco. Call Greg Abrams for more info, (415) 821-2877.f

Skiing

Saga North, lesbian and gay ski club. Call for more information (415) 995-2772.

Soccer

San Francisco Spikes Men's Soccer. Practice Tuesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., at Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. Call Carlo Togni at 821-4248.

Women's Soccer. Call Golden Gate Women's Soccer League Chair Jan Mullen at 753-0946.

Softball

S.F. Gay Softball League — Conducts a regular season of 14 games for men and women in three divisions from March through June. Winter pick-up ball on Sundays: Two games are played, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at noon, at Christopher Field — located behind the west end of the Safeway parking lot off Diamond Heights Blvd. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Please call Fred at (415) 381-0187 or Wendy at (510) 436-7959 for information.

East Bay Gay and Lesbian Softball players sought for pick-up games and possible

entry in Fremont City League. All skill levels are welcome. For information, contact, Patrick at 510-475-6339 or Mark at 510-797-6997.

Swimming

Tsunami Masters Swim Club — call Suzanne at 431-1933.

Team San Francisco

Gay Games bound Team San Francisco hopes to take at least 1,000 athletes from the Bay Area to Gay Games IV in New York, June 18-25, 1994. TSF supplies members with the latest information coming out of New York, travel & housing, registration packets for all sports, and a uniform for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and funds to help you get there. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and monthly calendars. To join TSF, call (415) 824-8118.

Table Tennis Association

Practice every Monday, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood Street. "We're gearing up for Gay Games IV." For more information, call D Minor at 346-9248 or Jon Myers at 864-2278. Coaching also available on Sunday mornings.

Volleyball

Volleyball practice every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Call Tony Travers at 255-1332.

Club Volleyball practice (Continued on page 51)

The Cafe, Warriors, Posse, Fear This

Flag Football: Lookin' Good

by Maureen Hogan

The women's flag football season is rapidly unfolding. All the teams are making the necessary adjustments to becoming more competitive. One obvious difference between this year's teams and those of recent seasons is the incredible speed of the new teams.

The Cafe and the Warriors played the first of the five league games. The Cafe looked very much like last season's champs in a 32-6 victory over the Warriors. Quarterback Dona Nielson threw two touchdowns, one to Liz Drennan and the other to Jackie Thomas, who, in the first half, intercepted a pass, recovered a fumble and returned each for touchdowns. The final score: Cafe 25; Warriors 0.

The second half was better for the Warriors. Quarterback Ann Leon found Michelle Randleston open for a 65-yard score. The Cafe scored its final touchdown when quarterback Carol Hippenmeyer threw a 25-yard pass to Alison Pappe. The final score was 32-6.

The Girlfriends and The Posse battled next. On the first possession for the Girlfriends, they drove all the way down to the five-yard line, only to be intercepted by Posse players. This was the only threat in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Posse players were deep in their own end and, on a broken play, quarterback Rosan-

na Martinez threw a short pass to Dawn Martin, who turned it into a 95-yard touchdown. The Girlfriends came right back with a 50-yard scoring pass from quarterback Mary Newman to Carol Burdick. They also scored later on a 40-yard pass to Nina Kiniry. Although The Posse made it tough, the Girlfriends scored one last time late in the fourth quarter when quarterback Mary threw an 85-yard pass to Nancy Boutlier. The final score was 20-6.

Fear This then took on Yikes! Both defenses were tough and there wasn't a score until late in the first half. Fear This broke it open when quarterback Vicky Martin saw an open Jill Brophy crossing the field. She ran it in for a touchdown. Vicky also ran it in for the extra point, 8-0. In the second half, quarterback Vicky hit Olga Gutierrez for a 10-yard completion into the endzone. Attempts by Yikes! to score came up short against Fear This's defense. The final score: Fear This 15; Yikes! 0.

Team SF and The Avengers played in the fourth game and neither team could break into the endzone in the first half. The Avengers put together the only score of the game, when quarterback Jen Galbreath hit Chris Vinanis for a 35-yard score. Team SF moved the ball well, but could not get on the scoreboard. The Avengers prevailed, 6-0.

In the last game, Yikes! and The Rebels battled it out

(Continued on page 51)

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First Person

POZ

(Continued from page 33)

press run of 100,000 is on the small side, but Strub's background in marketing should bode well for the book's future. Although *POZ* will be available at newsstands around the country, 70,000 copies will be mailed directly to people on his mailing list free of charge.

"We are mailing it into people's homes unsolicited," Strub says, "but on the other hand, I could argue that in a way it's a paid circulation because those 70,000 are people who have contributed to AIDS organizations, so we know they're really interested and motivated."

But even with a guaranteed large circulation, *POZ* has faced conflicts with advertiser, some who've flatly refused, says Strub, to carry alcohol or tobacco ads, or erotic advertising. Pharmaceutical companies, viatical settlement

firms, and gay-related businesses instead take up the bulk of the ad space.

Even with a guaranteed large circulation, *POZ* has faced conflicts with advertisers.

"I think my activist background has made some advertisers nervous," Strub admits, "but we certainly have enough for the first issue, and it looks like the advertising in our second issue will be twice that in the first."

At the top of the masthead is Editor-in-Chief Richard Perez-Feria, former editor of the magazine *Miami Monthly*. Since it's not exclusively tar-

geting HIV-positive readers, the fact that Perez-Feria is HIV-negative doesn't present a problem for Strub, who encourages diversity on staff.

"I intentionally involved people in senior positions at the magazine who are not gay or HIV positive," says Strub. "That was by design, to make sure we created an editorial product that was meeting that readership as well, so it would not become too insular, too narrowly focused."

Both men insist that despite its anticipated large gay readership, *POZ* is not a gay magazine, as its scope is significantly broader than that.

"We are doing a general interest magazine that has an AIDS spin to it," says Perez-Feria. "Where that falls in relation to being homo-friendly or gay-issue-oriented, or not, depends on the person reading it."

"We have to be careful, because the gay community for so long has been entrenched



Richard Perez-Feria

in the AIDS community, and vice versa," says Perez-Feria. "I think the AIDS community right now is a separate community, inclusive of a lot of gay sensibilities, because for so long the gay fight was equal to the AIDS advocacy fight. I think that's changing."

Good mix

Rather than dividing up the magazine into different constituencies, Perez-Feria wants to integrate gay issues into the mix.

"We are not going to say 'There are six articles about

gay people and four articles about straight people, so let's balance it out with one article about bisexuals.' We are not doing that at all," he says. "We're doing issues that matter most to people affected by AIDS."

While another HIV-lifestyle magazine, *Plus Voice*, premiered in January, Perez-Feria does not worry about competition between the two.

"I think we are complementing each other," he says. "I think there's room in the marketplace for five more magazines about AIDS. I think there is so much to do, and so much to say, and so many different ways of saying it. The more information out there about AIDS, the better."

"But I think I am the only editor on record in the country who will tell you that in five years, I hope there is no need for this magazine," says Perez-Feria. "I hope we are out of business." ▼

CONTINUING BARTALK PERSONALS FROM END OF FACING PAGE.

Wanted: Butch Top - Handsome bottom boy 37, 6'2", 200#, muscular, looking for topman who craves adventure. Must be in shape, age to 50. Discretion assured. EXT 2354.

GWM 36yo - 165#, 6', bottom, seeks tall, lean top for greek action. Smoke and drug free. Days or evening. EXT 2355.

Active GWM - 39, 5'10", HIV, seeks couple or friends who enjoy oral action, ass play, toys, videos, and extended hot partying. EXT 2356.

My hot hole is on fire - GWM bottom, masculine, muscular body builder, 5'8", 180#, great ass, into erotic fantasies & butt tight underwear, wants his hole pumped on a regular basis by hot, hung, masculine, muscular, white studs. HIV- only. Straight or Bi men a plus. EXT 2357.

BM HIV - Needs good head - BM seeks WM Daddy type 55-65 who likes to suck good black cock. Married men and Bi males a plus. We could jel. EXT 2358.

BM (Mama) - 57, 6', 230#, seeks tall, lean, masculine WM to breast feed, pamper and spoil my child. Call before your supper gets cold. EXT 2359.

Hot 28yo, smooth, muscular - 5'9", 170#, br/br, hung, uncult, beefy, HIV. I have a great sense of humor, I'm intelligent and real. I'm attracted to older hairy, brawny, brainy, hung guys who are honest, caring, and enjoy sex. Poss. LTR. EXT 2360.

Showoffs !!! - Showoffs desired for safe sex video contest. No pay, but lots of fun. Document your wildest desires! All types considered. EXT 2364.

GWM - Affluent, middle aged man seeks black belt in Judo for Relationship. EXT 2365.

Tall Dark & Handsome - GWM 6'3", 170#, brown hair, mustache, masculine, versatile, 41yo. Looking for trim hot masculine tops under 45 with big dicks. EXT 2392.

In Shape - WM, 5'11", 8", has a hungry tongue for well built WM w/ a big firm hairy bubble butt. EXT 2393.

East Bay Suck Buddy - Sought by strong, masculine, GWM 38, 6'2", 205#, 9"6" cut & shaved. If you're well hung too, 18-45 yo, and your #1 sexual preference is oral sex - call me. EXT 2394.

GM Versatile Bottom - slim, 35, Looking for hung GWM 35-42, muscular, hairy, top for fun & safe sex. EXT 2395.

50yo wants his body held by youngerGM - This 50 yo GWM has a nice 8 1/2" cock & it loves being played with by younger GM 20-40. Must live in SF area only.

I'd love to feel your black hands touching me all over my naked body. EXT 2396.

Talented Cocksucker - Quiet, discreet, clean-cut, 46yo talented cocksucker is eager to service goodlooking guys with big, cut, hard cocks. EXT 2398.

East Bay J/O - Wanted masculine, hung guy for mostly j/o, dirty talk, c/b worship, partying my place. Some oral OK (me receiving), late night only. Long scenes with hot butch buddy. No top/bottom guys. EXT 2402.

Wear a Kilt? Uncut? - My fantasy. WM 36, curious about foreskin. Lets talk. EXT 2403.

Have it his way - Surrender control to this handsome Hawaiian/Latin hunk 35yo, with chiseled muscular physique. Love to pump your face and butt. Get tied up and used enthusiastically. He will make you cum helplessly. EXT 2404.

Hung BK Topman - 23, 5'9", lean hard build, big UC meat seeks submissive gymtomed bottom boy with deep hungry bubble butt, any race welcome, but Asian & Latinos a plus, 18-30. EXT 2406.

Palo Alto GAM - Smooth skinned, 35yo, 210#, digs deepthroating cocks, need my butt spread and violated, hairy studs welcome to mount me! EXT 2407.

North Bay/Coast - Looking for new friends for sex and partying. I visit SF often or come here. EXT 2408.

Uncut BM - 59yo, HIV, 9"uc, wants submissive, deep-throating cum-freak, massuer. Older, hung, pro-sword-swallower a plus. Your looks unimportant. EXT 2409.

Aggressive Dominant Top - WM hung big, 5'11", gym body, needs to eat and fuck. EXT 2410.

Oakland - Dig having my crotch eaten more than getting cock sucked. Mostly into buddy to buddy dirty talk & j/o, c/b worship, partying 11pm, my place. Must be into partying & no shaved crotch. EXT 2412.

Lotsa guys think I'm a cop - Actually, I'm a top. Masculine, hairy, attractive, late 30s man who's passionate, hung & dominant, dark hair, mustache, blue eyes. Seeking hot smooth bottoms for my specialty. Asians, Latins preferred. HIV+ OK. EXT 2413.

Interested in Metaphysics - &/or meditation? So am I. Lets talk. EXT 2451.

Interested in photography? - So am I. Lets talk. EXT 2450.

Enjoy backpacking & camping? - So do I. Lets talk. EXT 2449.

HIV+ Bottom - Seeks patient, masculine men with patience for

slow fucks. N/D. Me: 32, 5'8", 152#, very well built, very healthy, into seeing someone for fun times & pleasure - regularly. EXT 2447.

Express Service - Let your cock have the undivided attention it deserves. Boyish, voraciously oral GWM 28 will pleasure sexy WMs 22-38. Plus if you wear a suit. No facial hair, no bullshit. EXT 2448.

Versatile Black Male - 6'1", 195#, hung, muscular. Seeks BM, WM, Hispanics, Arabs, Filipinos for sex. Bi or straight ok. EXT 2453.

Hung Guys Wanted! - I am looking for guys who are hung 9", 10", or more for fun and good times. EXT 2456.

Dad Seeks Oral Bottom Boy - I'm 6'1", 200#, hairy, in good shape GWM. You're GWM 25-35, all-American jock type, clean-cut, in good shape, masculine, but submissive. If blowing daddy makes you hot, call me. EXT 2458.

Force Me! - Hey dudes, GWM 26, br/br, cute, looking for studs 25-35, goodlooking, straight acting, who know when "yes" means "no" and "no" means "yes". EXT 2460.

Hot Latino - Versatile big uncult, 35, seeks Bi/GWM late 20s to 40s, masculine and in good shape to service my big cock and eat my hot butt. Facial hair a plus. EXT 2465.

Lets Rub Boners - Stick your cock inside my shorts. Watch me cream on your hard good. Talk about our stiff peters. I'm 41, 5'9", 145#, clean-shaven. EXT 2467.

I'm The Boy Next Door - GWM 27, br/br, good looks, new to city. Seeks patient dominant Bi/GWM 27-37, good looks, straight acting to teach? show? force? me to do what I need to do! EXT 2461.

Hard on? Horny? - Mature Bi MWM can massage stiff muscles and relax hard muscles with soft wet lips and tongue. Me 5'10", 165#, bald, HIV-, french only. You Ht/Wt proportionate, HIV-, clean, friendly, N/D. I enjoy give/get massage. EXT 2469.

Hot Italian Cocksucker - Available days and evenings. Seeks hot men to drain on regular basis. Castro location. Call for description. Let me be your cocksucking slave! EXT 2470.

Top Seeking Bottom - Goodlooking athletic WM, 39, 6'1", 185#, looking for goodlooking WM bottom under the age of 32. EXT 2471.

Longhair Guys Sought - for sensual sexplay, cocksucking, man to man partying. EXT 2472.

Yeah Buddy!! - Hellofocate GWM 27, inexperienced but eagerly try anything on. Seeks handsome Bi/GWM stud 25-35 to dominate my body and mind. Take me on! EXT 2462.

Attractive GBM - 40s, HIV-. Seek GWM 50-65 with a big thick cock 7" to 9", that enjoy a hot wet mouth around his cock for hours. And if you like sucking, surprise. EXT 2473.

Oral Service - For tops with 8" by GWM, young 40s, 6'1", 175#, Concord area. S.F. OK too. EXT 2475.

Do You Have A Huge Cock? - This very attractive, hot sexy young stud with a very tight hole wants to learn how to take the big ones. Come on big guy, teach me how. Hairy or facial hair, N/S are a plus. EXT 2479.

Gent late 40's - Likes to lick boots & kiss butt of younger guys. Totally safe sex. I am HIV- and want to stay that way. Like uniforms, cowboy attire, athletic gear. EXT 2468.

The Hand is the Cutting Edge of the Mind - FFB, fit 58 seeks virtuoso top fist, any stats, wide spectrum technique, intelligence. EXT 2336.

GWM 40 - Seeks horny men in suits or khaki slacks. Unbuckle your belt, unzip your pants, lower white briefs, good pull those pants down & j/o. UB 30+. EXT 2337.

The Swat Team - Two experienced spanking tops will take good care of you. Singles, couples, groups of bad boys, line up, drop'em & get what you deserve. Videos possible, red quivering buns probable, satisfaction guaranteed. Call us! EXT 2344.

Strict Disciplinarian Big Daddy 41 - Bad boys need their pants taken down & their bare bottoms soundly spanked. Will use hand paddle, strap, cane to correct bad behavior in boys, any age, race, looks. Fantasies fulfilled. Attitudes adjusted. Limits respected, expanded. My woodshed or yours? Get the butt-whuppin you so richly deserve! EXT 2345.

Tight Ass - Good Body - GWM 45, looking for ass coach to explore enemas, toys, releasing control (no fisting). You: good shape, 35+, patient, experienced. EXT 2350.

Massage & Fuck - GWM 50, 5'2", HIV-. Like my ass massaged. Lite spank & fuck my tight hot butt hard! EXT 2351.

Spanking! - 31yo spansk bad boys under 25, hand, belt, paddle... EXT 2352.

C/B Worship - Complete cock & body worship for lean, muscular, dominant boys, 18-30, 9"+. 26yo boy ready to serve, tell me what you want. EXT 2353.

Slave seeks dominant master - Novice Bi male with experience as

slave wants to serve master. I am both masochist and slave. EXT 2361.

Looking for dump master - Smeared and feed me with your raunchy turds. I'm handsome and masculine, U B 21 I give good head, rim jobs, and love a good hot fucking, spanking. EXT 2362.

Butch Novice wants Butch Teacher - Top - Hot, sexy, very attractive GWM bottom, 27 yo, with great body is seeking butch hairy daddy type who is patient, trustworthy, & strong yet gentle to teach me the art of bondage, water sports, dildos, & more. You be attractive, well hung & have facial hair. Leathermen, uniforms, or cowboys. Lets explore & have a wild time. EXT 2369.

Hirsute Men Wanted - Tell me about your hairy bodies, color of hair, where hair is, chest, back, shoulders, arms, ass, legs, etc... EXT 2387.

Whipmasters - We both can dish it out and we both can take it. We're mature, sophisticated, stoic in pain, erotic in pleasure. We accept competitor's, challengers, slave candidates, we like to be naked, hard. EXT 2399.

Unwashed Bodies - Rank jocks, shorts, cheesy foreskins serviced, must be HIV-. EXT 2400.

Man's Sex Slave - Sex slave for good looking masculine man, dark skinned preferred. This GWM will take your... orders bound & gagged. In shape, mid 30s, 5'10", 170#, healthy mind & body. You similar stats, not into vanilla. EXT 2401.

Elbow Grease - Voluptuous tatooed butt, fit 58, 5'11", 170#, seeks small hands expert top fist. Slide in to the shoulder please! Sling, lube, vet gloves, my place. Any age, race. Long sessions. EXT 2405.

50yo UC WM - 6', 170#, needs limits expanded wants leather, boots, kink, buttpay. Seeks BM/WM into same poss. LTR. EXT 2411.

Hello Sir, I'm a submissive bottom - I'm in my 20s, with a hot, smooth, fuckable butt. Seeking dominant top 35+ who wants to put me across his lap and spank my butt good and red before doing me doggy style. EXT 2419.

Butt Massage & Light Spanking - I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle & probe your beautiful buns. Light spanking will stimulate nerve endings you never knew you had. Then on your knees for a long safe ride. Me: attr. GWM 44, 6'5", 280#, football player's build. You: attr. GWM 18-35, slim, smooth, nice buns. EXT 2446.

Hot Piss For Hours - For, mature endurance oriented thirsty pervers only. Drain my big hard hose. No novices. EXT 2452.

Masculine Bottom Boy - 5'6", 130#, handsome, in-shape. Seeks to worship masculine, dominant dad/master, 25-45, in-shape. Boy needs training and/or limits expanded in spanking, flogging, TT, BD, light SM, WS. Experience, technique is important. EXT 2454.

Get Spanked by Big Brother - Are you 18-35, with a nice smooth butt? Cute, clean-shaven beardless guy, 37, 210#, wants to pull down your shorts, redder your cheeks, latex fingerfuck your horny butthole, and jerk you off. (South Bay guys please call as well.) EXT 2455.

Trim BWM 34 - I will order you to strip naked and make you do what I tell you. You are under 38, slender and masculine. EXT 2457.

Dildos - GBM, 40yo, 240#, endowed. Seeks fat, stocky, heavy-set men who enjoy long sessions of mutual dildo action. Lets open our butts. EXT 2466.

WS Top Wanted - By cute, young, thirsty South Bay boy. I'm in my tub waiting for you to walk in and feed me all night. Inexperienced OK, GLM & GBM a plus. EXT 2474.

Flogged, Boy Wanted - Is there a boy ready to be transferred in chains to my sonoma county hideaway, then hung naked by the wrists and flogged? I am Christian cleric, older, experienced, respectable, strong. EXT 2476.

COUPLES

R.U. an UC Couple? - Cut WM seeks menage a trois w/ 2 guys with foreskin. Be fit and masculine and intact. EXT 2414.

OTHER

BIM needs Asian tops - who like a warm, submissive, adventurous mouth, tongue, and butt on an attractive, short, trim, fit, aggressive, eager, mustached Bi clone daddy! EXT 2307.

E. Bay BWM 29 - wants to meet cute young guys for partying at my place & j/o on my face. Call soon. EXT 2308.

Goodlooking 50yo BIM - Muscular, blonde, 150#, Bi but tongue straight, abstinent before and since testing HIV-. Now hungry, wishing to meet trim, clean shaven, honest friendly BIM. EXT 2415.

Social Bridge - Concord area. 2 GMs looking for GM players. EXT 2477.

still only 98 cents per minute to respond to ads!

1-900-844-2227

BarTalk Personals 1-900-844-2227

Still only 98 cents per minute to respond!

Available only in the Bay Area on touch-tone phones.
You must be at least 18 y/o to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Taqueria Zapata, 18th & Collingwood - Wed. 3/9. Lunchtime burritos. We both had dark hair, mustache, hairy arms, and black jackets, grined at each other numerous times while we ate, then later when I walked by outside. I wish I'd given you my #, give a call. EXT 2311.

Show Jumping at Water Garden - Fri. 2/18. Spent 2 hrs. enjoying each other's company, talked about living in Europe, being 30-something, how we shouldn't meet again b/c we'd get too involved. Can't get you out of my mind. EXT 2312.

1/2 Red & 1/2 Green jacket/raincoat - with black letters on the back starting with J. You're blonde, w/ mustache. Saw you under the rain in Castro 3/10 during lunch. I had motorcycle gear and said hi couple of times. EXT 2313.

Mark, Noe Valley - We met at the End-up 2/25/94. You lost your car. I think you're beautiful. Please respond, Mark from England. EXT 2314.

Black Issusu Trooper II - 3/20, Castro at Market around 4:30pm, we were next to each other at light. You in Jeep and me on my motorcycle. You br beard, sunglasses, me beard, blk leather jacket, goggles. We kept looking at each other, I've seen you around. How bout lunch? EXT 2417.

Beeper Holder 3/11 - You answered ad #2218 last week about standing 3 ft. apart, talking about M.F. cock & stroking. Your message got erased before I could write # down. Leave beeper # again in this box. EXT 2370.

Black SL w/ 2 dogs - You are very attractive, nice smile, out for Sunday ride with 2 dogs. Saw you twice in Castro area. Me: white tank & grey shorts. How about a ride in my SL? EXT 2371.

Bill (707) area code - You responded to my ad - GAM, tall, seeking LTR w/ chubby, jovial... Your # was no good, please call again. EXT 2372.

Chris, Thurs. 3/3 - Closing time near the Bear. You said, "My friends say I have to be good tonight!" Did you lose my number? Please call - Randy. EXT 2426.

Aquarium Store, Sat. 3/5 - You: Blonde hunk looking at discs. Me: Asian. We talked about snorkeling in Thailand, Malay, Thai kickboxing. You had to go back to work. I was too shy to ask for your number. Would love to see you again. Coffee maybe? EXT 2427.

Midnight Caltrain, Fri. 3/18 - You: reading BAR, had blue monthly pass w/ bus sticker. Me: sitting diagonally across from you. As I got up you noticed my BAR. I got off at Mill Brae, you smiled at me through the window, lets meet. EXT 2428.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIPS M-M

Massage Buddies - Wanted by Attractive Italian GWM 40, 5'11", 180#, gentle, sensitive, spiritual, caring, HIV+, seeking same. EXT 2315.

Attractive, Sensual, Caring - GWM 42, bl/hzl, 5'10", 175#, HIV- seeks "special guy" to date, poss. LTR. Sense of humor, hairy, E. Bay, muscular, a plus. EXT 2316.

Seeking big endowment - also seeking great conversation, handsome prof. - 3 of 4 please. I'm GWM prof., handsome, hairy, hot bottom, HIV- fun. EXT 2317.

Tired of false games - race & age unimportant. Latino lost in this country seeks someone tenderly for LTR - must be Top. EXT 2318.

Seeking massage partner - Healthy 20's, trim & toned for deep tissue and oils. Serious only please. EXT 2319.

Very attractive GAM - 28, HIV-, 5'9", 145, shy, honest, educated.

Seeks handsome, GWM 20-33, HIV- for LTR or friendship. EXT 2320.

Distinguished Prof. - GWM 48, 5'8", 145#, cute all over, fun, loving, caring, Needs a friend 4 LTR, not into bars. Stuck in Vallejo waiting 4 U. EXT 2321.

Psychic? - Paranormal experiences? Esoteric spiritual pursuit? Me too, let's talk. Blessed be Louis. EXT 2322.

Want to go to bed? - I'm looking for cute, clean cut, under 5'9", under 35, HIV-, in shape, versatile boy next door. I'm 5'9", 155#, br/bl, healthy,

white skin are a turn on, but must be built & passionate, to call. EXT 2379.

Rim Daddy Expert Wanted - Seeking man 40+ for LTR. Get sexual pleasure & romance by BM 35y/o, 220#, 5'10". EXT 2380.

Beefy Dad - is a WM late 40s looking for WM HIV-, 30s - late 40s, slender to med. Dad is secure, hung, & HIV-. EXT 2381.

Attractive Gym Body BM - Coll. grad, 29, 6'2", 190#, enjoy sports, theatre. Seek attr. WM 24-34, bottom, great body & mind, able to

True Romantic - GWM 33, 6', 150#, br/br. Seeks prof. to 45. Hairy chest a plus. New to gay life. EXT 2389.

Great Deepthroat - Bottom seeks Bi or straight top for in or out, here or there, now or then. When you're ready, I'm ready. Lets do it. Call. EXT 2390.

Hairy Husky GWM - 39, balding, moustache. Seeks guy 20-30 w/ attractive boyish looks for poss. LTR. I like films, nature, etc... EXT 2391.

Howdy Cowboy! - This very handsome, good hearted young stud is looking for a good hearted very handsome cowboy. I'm masculine, virile, muscular, sexy, romantic, moustache, honest, kind. You be masculine, have facial hair, be hung, mostly a top, kind, simple, intelligent, friendly guy. EXT 2418.

GM, br/br, 22 - Very cute, slender, looking for LTR w/ GWM under 30. Has to be cute and HIV- east coast guys a plus. EXT 2420.

Wheelchair guy - Soon to be lawyer seeks big hearted, high self-esteem sincere guy to share enriching loving happiness & life. EXT 2443.

Bottom Dad Seeks Top Son - GWM, bottom dad seeks top son for LTR. Into kink, fantasies, romance, passion and love. Son: under 30, in shape. EXT 2429.

HIV+ GWM - Looking for romance, adventure, & intimacy. 32y/o, 5'10", 165#, br/br, handsome, masculine, professional, versatile bottom, seeking similar versatile top. EXT 2430.

Hard Bodied - Mature, stable, versatile GWM, 38, 5'6", 130#, HIV- very young looking & handsome. Seeks similar GWM/HM for romantic fun & LTR. EXT 2431.

Goodlooking Versatile Healthy HIV+ GWM - Seek same for poss. LTR. I'm 44, 5'10", 168#, in shape, balding dark brown hair, trim moustache & beard. Affectionate, easy going, light smoker. You: goodlooking, in-shape, nice man. Lets talk. EXT 2432.

Witty World Traveler - 34y/o WM, straight acting, non-smoker, HIV-, vegetarian, like hiking, biking, dining, travel. Seek straight acting WM under 35. Operators waiting. EXT 2433.

Relatively Speaking - GWM 31, bl/bl, 5'6", 130#, sometimes sweet, sometimes bratty, needs young dad, uncle, big brother. Want to feed on your hot cock & hard man butt daily. Sense of humor a must, hairy, affectionate, loving a plus. EXT 2434.

Asian - 29, not into gay scene. Looking for LTR with man who is HIV-, masculine, a top only, straight or bi male. EXT 2435.

Enormous Black - Honest, 30y/o, 6'4", 190#, 10"+, seeks a well hung attractive GWM or GBM for hot sex, dating, & poss. LTR. No games. EXT 2436.

Euroasian Seeks GWM - Wanted by attractive, husky, built man, 21, 5'21/2", 135#, versatile. Seeks older GWM 26-34 who is taller, affectionate, and adventures toward life & sex. EXT 2437.

Giving All My Love - Gay Asian American wants to find his true love. If you are GWM or GLM under 30 and want to find out what I have to offer, then please respond. I'm sweet, sincere, easy going and fun loving. I'm 23, 5'7", and 160#. EXT 2438.

Slightly Naughty & Nice - GWM 30s, 6'2", 195#, big muscular legs and great smooth body is looking for high chemistry, superficial relationship. Discretion & pleasure assured. Must agree poverty is worse than sin. Tops & daddies only serious connoisseurs. EXT 2439.

Healthy Prof. Shy Filipino - 40y/o, HIV-, loving & responsible. Seeks 40-50y/o, any race for poss. LTR. EXT 2440.

GWM 29 - Seeks 27y/o Asian fem bottom for a serious relationship, HIV-, no drugs, serious only. Ask for Jim. EXT 2441.

Ranchboy in the City - 23y/o, all American type direct from UCLA. Bl/bl, thin, into working-out, biking & staying clear of the scene. You should be similar, 21-30, attractive, must be straight laced, clean-cut, N/S, N/D, or heavy drinking. Just friends welcomed. EXT 2442.

GWM 32, 5'10" - I'm husky guy who loves the normal things in life. Looking for GWM for poss. LTR. Not into one night stands. Small guys a plus. EXT 2444.

Rimmer Expert Wanted - Seeking for man 40 or older for compassion and relationship, and to motivate a BM, 35y/o, 220#, 5'10", that is soft like a teddy bear with a cushion butt hole to sink into. EXT 2445.

Orlando Professional GWM - Seeks friends in San Francisco area. I am very interested in ballet, modern dance, collecting books, magazines, photos and a fetish for nylon/hydra tights. EXT 2478.

SEEKING ADVENTURE M-M

Very Hot Butch Bottom Seeks Hot Butch Top Playbuddy. - You be muscular, have moustache or beard and be very well hung. I'm a nice guy, young, very attractive, virile stud with moustache, muscular build, and a tight hungry hole. I know how to make you scream in wild ecstasy. NS, ND. EXT 2271.

BiWM successful, exec. - 52y/o, br/bl, 5'11" 190#, handsome, seeking man 18-30 for dating & to spoil, movies, dinner, shopping. Be fit Shaved legs a +. EXT 2309.

Daytime Fuckbuddy - Hot, sexy, masculine, attractive bottom seeks hot, attractive, masculine well hung top, with facial hair for wild sexual lunchtime rendezvous. EXT 2323.

Free Blowjob - GWM 44 will suck you dry! You under 30, in shape & cut. Size not important. Discretion guaranteed. EXT 2329.

Feel my tongue - up your butt and my moustache in your crack. Hot GWM 6', 160#, br/bl. You: hot, trim & ready. EXT 2330.

Looking for playmate - 26, 150#, 5'11", flat top, hairy chested. Looking for playmate, no games, no tools. You 35-40. Lets meet & talk. EXT 2331.

Attractive GBM - 49, HIV+, dominant top, wants submissive, attractive GWM 30-50 w/ facial hair. Must love to service. LTR poss. EXT 2332.

J/O Buddies - BiBM 24, 6'2", 712", 325#, but losing. Looking for muscular dudes 18-29 for hot jo. Into dirty talk, hot straight & bi videos. Tattooed a plus. EXT 2333.

Want hot muscular bottoms - White or Hispanic. GWM 50, top 9" endowment, 6'0", br/br, glasses. Seek hot white or Hispanic bottoms, must be under 40 and smooth bodied. EXT 2368.

Forskin & J/O lovers - 46, HIV- husky, hairy, balding, uncult bear. Seeks GWM or GWM for sensual intellectual sex and poss. LTR. EXT 2335.

Go ahead & drain me - 27, muscular young stud, hard and hung, kicks back for expert cock sucking, deep throating action. EXT 2338.

Very Hot Butch Bottom wants Butch Top - I'm very attractive, strong, muscular, awesome lovermaker w/ good heart. You are strong, in shape, well hung hairy daddy type. Let's have a hot wild time. EXT 2328.

Deepthroat gumjob - Fantastic to- the-root service for XXXX thick UC. Any race, age, my place, Cathedral Hill area. EXT 2339.

New to scene - Goodlooking GWM, 28, ready to lose my innocence. 6'1", 200#, blue eyes, well endowed & killer legs. Love to get massaged. Rub me down & rub me off. EXT 2340.

Motorcycling sportsminded men - who fit the masculine category well. I'm GWM 29, 5'10", 140#. Have helmet, will travel. EXT 2341.

Italian ex-football jock - Seeking hot expert oral service on regular basis. Call for description and message. EXT 2342.

Tennis anyone? - Beginning tennis player seeks tennis partners to play & improve my game. I'm 6', 175#, muscular. EXT 2343.

Palo Alto GAM - 210#, 6', bl/br, seeks guys 21-40 to give head, have car, will travel. Hairy men welcomed. EXT 2346.

Hung Black Top - 40, seeks husky, mature, experienced, non-bearded bottoms for hot quickies in the East Bay. Be available & local. EXT 2347.

Live outside San Francisco? - I want to meet people who live outside San Francisco to visit. I'm seeking new friends and new adventures. EXT 2348.

Passive Son? - Tall overweight GWM Dad, HIV-, smoker, honky (not hunky) looking for GWM 23-30 for fun times, and if you are good and loyal, you will be rewarded well! EXT 2349.

Call Bartalk Today
1-900-844-2227

Free!!! Bartalk personals

Deadline for ads is 5:00p.m. Thursdays for the following Thursday's issue. New ads will be published in the following Thursday's issue and will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information and details on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ads.

SELECT A CATEGORY:
SEEKING RELATIONSHIPS: M-M _____ W-W _____ FETISHES _____ COUPLES _____
SEEKING ADVENTURE: M-M _____ W-W _____ OTHER _____ PARTING GLANCES _____
Please print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid Address and Phone # and understandable text.

NAME _____ DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
Apt # _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Write your headline here: _____
Write rest of Ad here: _____

MAIL TO: BARTALK PERSONALS, 395 9TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103.

this

FRIDAY 1

Angels with Dirty Faces
Women comics perform. \$5-8. 8pm. Thru 4/2. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Carnaval King & Queen Contest
Most gay men's impressions of Carnaval are limited to Kristin Bjorn's version. Expand your parameters at a colorful contest to see who will rule the May Carnaval parade. \$5. Free for contestants (So get out the glitz, you cheap things). 7-11pm. Bahia, 1 Page St at Market & Gough. 826-1401.

Cocteau Twins
Lords of alternative obscurata goth glorious music play live. Also Sat. \$20. 8pm. The Warfield, 982 Market St. 775-7722.

Distant Fires
Kevin Heelan's intense drama about race relations. Black and white men fight for a job while a riot burns in the distance. \$10-14. 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. Thru 4/23. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Dolls' Nest Soup
Nesting Dolls' wild evening of dance and theatre, with Few Travelers Performance Group, Megan Harris and others. Proceeds benefit the Summer-time Dance Project. \$7-70. 8pm. 848 Divisadero. 648-7909.

The Dyke and the Porn Star
Bayla Travis' hit two-woman play about love, loyalty and lasciviousness. Can a lesbian romance have a happy ending? \$8-12. 8:30pm. Thru 4/30. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

The End of the Day
Jon Robin Baitz's acclaimed comedy about a British-born cynic who abandons his Beverly Hills home and family to work in a health clinic, only to get caught up in Hollywood corruption, painting theft, drug-smuggling and a menacing ex-father-in-law. \$17-21. 8:30pm. Thru 4/17. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

Girl Jesus & Bucktooth Varmints
Female Trouble celebrates Good Friday with two raucous dyke bands in both rock and dyke-billy styles. DJ Stefanie Phillips. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St. 626-4455.



Humanscapes
Michael Lewis and Nena St. Louis' exhibit of xerographic technographic figures. Thru 4/7. Morphos Gallery, 544 Hayes St. 626-1936.

The Illusion
Tony Kushner's adaptation of the 18th-century Corneille play

about a man who is shown three visions of his lost son. But which is the real one? \$7-10. 8pm. Thru April 9. Bannam Place Theater, 50 Bannam Place. Between Union & Greene. 986-2701. 863-8839.

Just a Stage
SF's queer improv group continues its hit run of spontaneous funny sketches. \$5. 9pm. Above Brainwash Theater, 126 Folsom near 7th. 362-7703.

Light Up the Sky
American Conservatory Theatre's production of Moss Hart's witty satire of Broadway egos, opening night jitters and vicious critics. \$14-38. 8pm. Sat. & Wed. mats at 2pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 5/8. Marjorie Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter at Mason. 749-2ACT.

Love is Blue: The Claudine Longet Story
Campy musical drama about the semi-talented French singer who gunned down her skier ex. Spider Sabich, Flynn, Mike Wilson, Deena Davenport and Leigh Crowe star. \$8-12. Thru 4/2. 8:30pm (Fri. late show at 11pm). Bernice Street Theatre, 21 Bernice, behind the SF Eagle. 863-5946.

Men Without Heads
Commercially erotic exhibit of male escort advertising photography by Harbour



Jose Maro Alvarado (SAT.)

Studios, Ram Studios, Steven Savage & Chelsea Williams. For stunning examples of their work, see the glamorous escort section of our paper. No, this is not an April Fools' joke. \$2. Proceeds go to Visual AIDS. Opening reception 6-9pm. Thru 5/15. Ram Studios, 4077A 18th at Castro. 558-9564.

A Night in the Shakespeare Ward
Original cabaret show. \$5-8. 8pm. Cabaret also open for dinner. Thru 4/16. La Val's Subterranean Cabaret, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. (510) 540-7743.

Blakk 2 Your Roots

Dave, take a hike. Move over, Arsenio. Conan who?

Tune in to the talkiest show in town with perennial presidential candidate and primo coffee queen Joan Jett Blakk. After the movie, after dinner for ten, close your night with a queer gab and talentfest: Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk, Saturdays at midnight. Josie's, 16th & Market. For studio tickets, call 861-7933.

I Am Not a Bad Man (THU.)



Particles
Play about different gendered couples and their emotional intimacies, and Eden, we think. We're not sure, since the press release wins the Most Obtuse Description Award.

\$12. 8:30pm. Thru 5/7. Marilyn Monroe Memorial Theater, 96 Lafayette St. 552-3034.

Portraits & Toilet Water
New queer images by LA photographer Catherine Opie. Also, "Toilet Water," lovely intime paintings by Jerome Caja. Rollicking reception 7-10pm. Thru 4/30. Kiki, 483 14th at Guerrero. 863-KIKI.

Ruby's Fool's Day
Transgender fun to celebrate the ridiculous holiday. Jealousy, Sasha Blue, Madame X, Toni and the Transdancers perform lip-synch and gogo, plus "With No Anchovies," a trans-dragal comedy with Trauma Flintstone, Rooby Toosday herself and others. Ever-cute Michael Blue DJs. \$3-10. Proceeds benefit the Brothers Network. 10pm. The Peter Pan, 45 Turk (at Mason & Market). 928-6991.

The Sensational Sin Sisters
Doug Holtsclaw's comedy in "queen-speak," about two close friends whose camp-fest becomes a battle of wits. \$12-18. 8pm. Thru 4/23. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

A Streetcar Named Desire
The classic Tennessee Williams play about the unkindness of strangers. \$9-14. 8pm. Thru 4/16. Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 East Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City. (415) 349-6411.

Tread Threads

Those cute bike messengers who zoom around the city will hold still for a few moments at the Bike Messenger Fashion Extravaganza to raise awareness for the upcoming AIDS Bike-A-Thon. See colorful costumes and dolled-up wheels, April 7, noon, at Justin Herman Plaza. The Bike-A-Thon has raised over \$2.2 million for Bay Area AIDS organizations since 1985. Check out the couture, and while you're at it, tune up your tubes and sign up for the May 21 Bike-A-Thon. The event is sponsored by Different Spokes 282-1647.

Under a Mantle of Stars
Manuel Puig's (Kiss of the Spider Woman) latest work, a comic, yet disturbing drama about the seductive power of fantasy. \$10-12. 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 4/10. Maggie Crum Theatre, 1535 Giammona Dr., Walnut Creek. (510) 933-7262.

The Vatican Rag
Mini pop opera with a wild religious altarcation spin. Related installation of visual art also on display. 8pm & midnight. Also Sat. at midnight. F/X nightclub, 400 South First St., San Jose. (408) 298-6861.

Way Out West
Musical comedy based on the classic Mae West-W.C. Fields movie, with Ann Drogynous, Mark Sargent, Donna Sachet and others. \$15. 8pm. Sun. at 7pm. Thru May 1. Artful Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-5455.

SATURDAY 2

Bad Religion
Wonderfully blasphemous collection of "Easter Abomination" videos, including Bunuel's *Simon of the Desert*, plus *Vatican World* (Madison Avenue Popularity), *Miraculous Vision*, *Behold, I Come Quickly*, and *Shopping Network Jesus*. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Daniel Phill
Exhibit of vivid colorful paintings and drawings in a unique combination of abstract and figurative forms. Thru April 30. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Devotees in the Garden of Love
One-act drama of three black women reporting from "the battlefield of love." \$5-10. 8pm. Thru 4/17. Intersection for the Arts Theatre, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Gay Comedy Night
Mark Davis, Tom Ammiano, Scott Silverman. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Inside/Out
Gay and lesbian TV. Noon. Cable Channel 47.

Jose Maro Alvarado
Paintings of male nudes. Thru 4/30. Vorpall Gallery, 393 Grove St. 397-9200.

Rafiki House Benefit
Evening of music with Tribe 8, Siren and Wise Young Truck. Proceeds benefit Rafiki, a group home for African-American PWAs. \$5. 10pm. Komotion International, 2779 16th at Folsom. 861-6423.

Tiny Shoes
Exhibit of art by Kris Kovick, Wayne Smith, G.B. Jones and others parodying the Christian comics of Jack Chick. Thru 4/30. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Triangle Productions
Gay and lesbian TV. 9:30pm. Channel 53.

Voices
Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble performs its fifth anniversary concert of works by women composers, including Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock. \$12-18. 8pm. Center for the Arts Theatre, Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 987-ARTS.

Works on Paper
Group show of art by David Hockney, Keith Haring, James Rosenquist, Alex Katz, Roy Lichtenstein and others. Thru 4/30. Meyerovich Gallery, 251 Post, 4th Fl. 421-7171.

Darryl Sapient/Bob Dix
Recent work by two irreverent artists. Thru 4/30. Opts Art, 250 4th St. 546-7846.



SUNDAY 3

Cherrie Moraga & Drama Divas
Reading and performance in celebration of Bravol For Women in the Arts' new space. Schmoozing. 2pm. Performance: 3:30pm. Bravol For Women in the Arts, 2180 Bryant at 20th.

Imagenes de Mexico
The gallery's first photo exhibit, with works both contemporary and vintage. Great Day of the Dead sculptures also on view and for sale. Thru 4/10. Polanco Gallery, 242 Gough. 252-5753.

Kim Edward Blakk
"Inner Sections," an exhibit of airbrushed paintings of nudes, religious iconography and homeless people. Thru 4/17. Architects & Heroes, 2239 Fillmore. 921-8383.

Open Michelle Night
Women share words, poems and songs. 7pm. Thru Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

Week

Party Talk
Gay and lesbian TV. 11pm.
Cable Channel 47.

The Voyeur Foyer
Queer independent film,
video and performance.
10:30pm. Channel 53.

none of the pretension,
plus you can actually get a
seat!), 139 Noe at 14th.
431-JAVA.

TUESDAY 5

Breathe Into Orgasm
Jwala leads an open
workshop on sexual
healing and unleash-
ing old patterns. \$20.
8-10pm. Pre-regis-
tration required. Good
Vibrations, 1210
Valencia. 974-9880.

**Gay & Lesbian
FolkDancing**
Lessons at 7:30-8pm,
dancing full tilt 8:00-
9:30pm. Each week
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585-9784.

Klubstitute
Baroque interfaith
Easter Mass & Rites
of Spring celebration,
with Connie Cham-
pagne conducting the
Klubstitute Choir. \$3.
The Stud, 9th &
Harrison. 863-6623.

Laurie Anderson
Eerie and acclaimed
performance artist
reads section from
her new book, *Stories
from the Nerve Bible*,
and sings a few
songs from her
upcoming album, co-
produced with Brian Eno.
\$12. 8pm. Also Wed. UC
Berkeley's Wheeler
Auditorium. (510) 642-
9388.

Lavender Lounge
Queer TV show. 10pm.
cable Channel 47.

Women's Stand Up
Comedy by women of all
sexual orientations, plus a
few token males. 8:30pm.
Cat's Grill and Alley Club.
1190 Folsom at 8th. 972-
8047.

WEDNESDAY 6

**Myron, A Fairy Tale
In Black and White**
Michael Kearns' modern
update of the romantic
comedy *Cyrano*, with an
intercultural gay couple. \$12.
8pm. Thru 4/24. Josie's,
16th at Market. 861-7933.

Sight Unseen
Donald Margulies' Obie-
winning play about an
artist whose fame brings
sales before he begins his
paintings. His reconnecting
with a former lover and
model bring a
reexamination of his
Jewish upbringing, but the
killer scene is between the
artist and a German
journalist who grills him in
an interview. \$20-32. 8pm.
Sun. at 2 & 7pm. Thru
5/27. Berkeley Repertory
Theatre, 2025 Addison at
Shattuck, Berkeley. (510)
845-4700.

MONDAY 4

Gay Comedy Open Mike
MC Lisa Geduldig. Aspiring
comedians sign up by phone
by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's,
16th & Market. 861-7933.

Marga Gomez
Outstanding lesbian Latina
comic, performer and
writer speaks as part of the
"On Art & Politics" series.
proceeds benefit the
Women's Foundation. \$14-
20. 8pm. Herbst Theatre,
401 Van Ness at
McAllister. 392-4400.

Matt Tierney
Recent paintings and
drawings of still-lives,
landscapes and nudes.
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good coffee of Flore with

THURSDAY 7

The Art of Isadora Duncan
Lori Belilove & Company
perform the choreography
of the modern dance
mother, Isadora Duncan.
\$12-50. 8pm. Sun. at
3pm. Thru 4/10. Theater
Artaud, 450 Florida at
17th. 621-7797.

Beverly Mayeri
New sculpture in figurative
ceramics. Opening
reception 5:30-7:30pm.
Thru 4/30. Dorothy Weiss
Gallery, 256 Sutter. 397-
3611.

Breath
Theatre dance collision
based on Samuel Beckett
works. \$12. 8pm. Thru
4/24. The Y Theater 220
Golden Gate. 974-4391.



Cocteau Twins (FRI.)

**Coming Home
Hospice Bingo**
Play and raise funds for the
hospice. \$12 buy-ins. 7pm.
100 Diamond St. 552-
7454.

Daughters of Feminists
Author Rose Glickman
reads from her latest book
about the daughters of
feminists and speaks about
how their lives have been
changed by being members of
the "post-feminist"
generation. 8pm. \$3-10.
Old Wives' Tales, 1009
Valencia. 821-4676.

I Am Not a Bad Man
Michelle Spencer's solo
dance performance piece
about her relationships
with famous men: Melville,
Adam Ant, J.S. Eliot, King
Lear and Jim Rockford,
among others. \$8-10.
8:30pm. Thru 4/16.
Dancers' Group/Footwork,
3221 22nd St at Mission.
824-5044.

Way Out West (FRI.)



Life Will Not Stand Still
Photographs of lifelong
companions and collab-
orators Hansel Mieth and
Otto Hage (Hansel was a
woman. Sorry, guys) is
shown in 70 black and
white prints. Mieth and
Hage fled Nazi Germany
for America, working
together from the '30s to
the '50s, documenting
farm laborers and activists
in the Depression. Thru
May 20. Vision Gallery,
1155 Mission. 621-2107.

Makostyle
Gay and lesbian TV.
10:30pm. Cable Channel
47.

Ryan's Daughter
Bambi Lake croons cabaret
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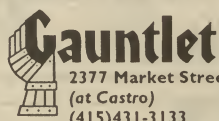
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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Leather Title Mania in New Mexico, Indiana and SF



Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather 1994-95, Mike Lias, donated his \$300 cash prize to the AIDS Emergency Fund after winning the title last Thursday, March 24. He'll keep the Eagle vest.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Three new leathermen rose to titled heights in San Francisco, Albuquerque and Indianapolis since we last met on these pages. Last Thursday, March 24, the final leather bar title in San Francisco took place at the SF-Eagle. Judges Mr. Eagle Leather Andy Rose, Warren Cave, Deb Coss, Tom Hamilton and Rod Endert faced off with three contestants in a private pre-judging session, and scored in public with onstage appearances for leather image, a 90-second speech and brief attire that played to a packed house.

It was good to see Mr. Watering Hole Greg Pennington, Mr. Jackhammer Rob Rozendal and Mr. Headquarters St. Clair Adams on hand. Mr. Edge, Larry "Stoney" Burke, was not in attendance.

The no-frills contest started on time (2100) and ended shortly before midnight. When the Olympic style scoring was completed, it was determined by the judges that the \$300 cash prize and custom Eagle leather vest would be awarded to 41-year old Mike Lias. The runner-up was Keith Shaw (\$50) and the other contestant was Brett Brockschmidt. Both Mike and Keith donated their prize money to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Bravo!

Mike has lived in San Francisco for five years and is employed as an electrical engineer. He is definitely into leather and uniforms. He jokingly implied that he's single, but I'm sure Rob Marvin would dispute that assertion.

Along with the other four bar winners in San Francisco, and possibly an independent or two, Mike will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather title on Saturday, April 16, at the California Club (Clay at Van Ness). Out-

going Mr. SF Eagle Leather Andy Rose gave a final speech thanking all who supported his year. But Andy is still the King of Leather, so his tenure in the sash-rash club will continue until the next SF Mardi Gras Krewe de Cuir celebration.

And while I'm on the subject, tickets for the Mr. SF Leather competition (\$15 general admission; \$20 reserved seats) are going fast and are available at Mister S and the Eagle. You can charge them to your Visa or Mastercard by calling (415) 626-3556.

As an aside, the Chief Judge for the IML '94 contest, Thom Dombkowski of Chicago, will be here for the event. On Friday night, April 15, a party to introduce the judges, contestants and other leather dignitaries will be held at the Jackhammer Bar in honor of the outgoing Mr. SF Leather, Greg Byfield.

★ ★ ★

Mr. New Mexico Leather and Mr. Indiana Leather were chosen last week in their respective cities. Leather aficionados from far and wide trekked to both cities to participate. I didn't make it to Indiana but my ever reliable spies were there to report details.

In Albuquerque, the Sandia Leathermen and the Ranch Bar pooled their considerable resources to put on a very professional leather event. They thought of everything! Leather vendors, a boot black and a piercing expert were only part of this well-done three-day extravaganza. I couldn't begin to enumerate the number of volunteers on hand who handled the contestants, judges, manned the stage crew, sold tee shirts, chauffeured the guests and made it all look so easy.

The Motorcyclermen of New Mexico MC turned out in full force in support of the event and people from all over the state — and from as far away as Haifa, Israel — were on hand to witness the standard competition, which also included fantasies by the contestants, as well as some by the guests. Emcees Jim and Rhoda were superb and I had fun working with judges Mark Frazier, Cindy Bookout, Ed Ivey, Greg Lowe, Steve Quintana and Steve Benoit. Margo Carr was the tally mistress. All this for almost 500 spectators.

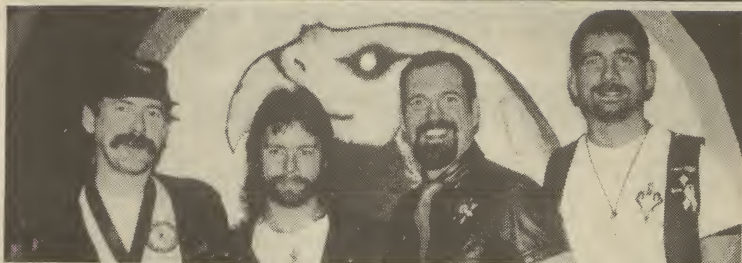
The first ever Mr. New Mexico Leather is Matt Lopez. He hails from Pecos, New Mexico and will be the first leatherman to appear at IML from that state. The runner-up was Gary Russell Smith; the other contestant was Casey Newkirk. The Land of Enchantment turned out to be the Leather Land of Enchantment. Superb job. Very professional. And special thanks to Ranch Bar manager Sonny and bar owner J.C., to my special valet Carl, as well as Mr. New



Mr. SF-Eagle Leather contestants in brief wear (l. to r.): Keith Shaw, 1st runner-up, Mike Lias the winner and Brett Brockschmidt, Thursday, May 24.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Mr. Marcus



Candidates for Mr. Leather San Francisco (l. to r.): Mr. Watering Hole Greg Pennington, Mr. Headquarters St. Clair Adams, SF-Eagle Mike Lias and Mr. Jackhammer Bob Rozendal, competing on April 16 at the California Club.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Mexico Drummer '93 Steve Benoit and everyone involved. It was, quite frankly, one of the best contests I've seen. And I'll let you in on another little secret: they'll be sending their first ever leatherwoman to IMsL. next March! Stay tuned.

In Indianapolis, Frank Nowicki and Kay Hallanger hosted the Omikron MC's leather weekend, complete with the first Lap Indy 500 run. The cavernous Our Place hosted almost 500 spectators for the competition, which also included the Mr. Indianapolis Saliva contest, but only after Kay made sure that Frank had "certified" arm pits! The new Mr. Leather Indiana is Lance Bray; first runner-up is Michael Cooker and second runner-up, David Hawn (formerly Great Lakes Drummer Boy).

The leather competition continues. This weekend, they'll pick Mr. Washington State Leather at Neighbors Bar in Seattle. I'll be judging the event, so you'll get the outcome next week. In Los Angeles, they'll pick Mr. Los Angeles Leather at the LA-Eagle on Saturday night and in Albuquerque, Pat Sanchez is staging the Mr. New Mexico Drummer Contest at the Albuquerque Social Club. Results next week!

The spoon runs away with the dish

The one predominant dish/question that plagues observers (leather and otherwise) in various locations of the leather tribe is why "Mr. Slurpy" judges all these contests when no one has ever seen him in full leather! Except for a leather vest, saggy, unkempt jeans and always sockless and bootless, the question on most minds is:

this any way to run a leather contest? Leather celebs and even some vanilla queers want to know.

From all reports, San Francisco experienced flawless weather over the weekend. Mr. Watering Hole Greg Pennington raised some \$500 for the AIDS Emergency Fund with his Body Parts party at the Hole. Big turnout. Tommi Rose hosted. So far, Greg (with a little help from his friends) has raised over \$1000. Are you paying attention?

South of Market's oldest leather bar, the Watering Hole, may be history any

minute now; it appears to be going through a schizophrenic binge. The expected sale of the bar to "straight" people "allegedly" fizzled out last Thursday only to re-emerge by the weekend with the news that the owners wanted to turn it into a heterosexual hunting haunt — partnering with the ailing Top Hat next door — an alleged jazz club. Oh well.

At my deadline, word was out that Vern Stewart threw up his hands in disgust and resigned, his last day as manager was this past Monday, March 28. How very, very lovely! ▼



Mr. SF Leather Greg Byfield (l.) here with IML 93 Lenny Broberg, will sash his successor next month. Bid farewell and meet the contestants and judges at a reception on Friday, April 15 at the Jackhammer.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)



Judges picked Matt Lopez (center) to be Mr. New Mexico Leather and to strut at IML here with (l.) 1st runner-up Gary R. Smith and Casey Newkirk, last Saturday night, Mar. 25 at The Ranch Bar in Albuquerque.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

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Mr. Marcus

Leather Affairs to Remember

Thursday, March 31: Looking for Mr. July on the 1995 Bare Chest calendar at the Eagle at 2100 tonight. Surprise judges. Win \$100, fame, adulation.

Motorsports Club Berlin celebrates all weekend with "Ostereffen" if you happen to be there. Ostereffen means "Easter."

Weekend April 1-3: Seattle's Leather Pride Week continues with the Cuff Bar celebrating its first anniversary on Friday, the Mr. Washington State Leather contest at Neighbors Nite Club on Saturday, and tons of leather icons on display.

The Mr. New Mexico Drummer competition takes place at the Albuquerque Social Club — by Pat Sanchez and the Motorcyclism of New Mexico. International Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton will emcee the event, with meet and greet on Friday, contest at 2100 on Saturday, and farewell brunch on Sunday. Call (505) 864-1980 for prices, times and other information.

Saturday, April 2: Mr. Leather Los Angeles contest at the L.A. Eagle in West Hollywood begins at 2100. Former Mr. Long Beach Leather Jesse Arias, the manager, is the producer. More leather celebs.

Leather Daddy Philip ("I Never Rest") Turner's "Twisted Easter Egg Hunt" featuring Bobby Wong (and that big hat!) from 2000-2300 — prizes, beer/soda bust for \$7, and special prize if you find the Golden Egg. All for the AIDS Emergency Fund!

Easter Sunday, April 3: Gussy up an Easter hat and compete for prizes at the Pacific Bears' beer/soda bust at the Eagle. \$8, 1500-1800, with a \$50 first prize and \$25 for runner-up. "I Never Rest" will emcee this benefit for the Nevada AIDS Project.

Mr. Jackhammer Bob Rozendal has a toy Jackhammer truck on display filled with scads of prizes at the Great Big Easter Basket contest. You could win them if you guess how much the truck weighs. Drop in; guess as many times as you want — a \$1 a chance. Winner will be named at 2100 after the \$5 beer bust benefiting Shanti Project.

Thursday, April 7: Choosing Mr. August '95 at the Eagle's Bare Chest Contest tonight at 2100. Win \$100. Surprise judges.

Saturday, April 9: Dyke Mommy Tina Carroll's "Fractured Fairy Tales" at Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose tonight. Doors open at 1830, readings at 1900 to benefit Lyon-Martin Clinic. \$7-10 sliding scale with celeb authors reading their nastiest. Call (408) 293-AGAY.

LA's Black & Tans beer/soda bust at the Eagle. Details next week. ▼

Sweet Lips

Bottoms Up for Easter

At Kimo's on Easter Sunday, April 3, beginning at 4 p.m. there will be a Day of Remembrance for Mama Billy, who passed away a few weeks ago. Bring your memories and tambourines. While you're at it bring your Easter basket and bonnet and help celebrate Mama Billy's first annual Easter Bonnet & Basket Award. There will be many tapes of Mama Billy's music and lots of memories. Ronnie Lynn, as you know, is on the plank (Sunday thru Tuesday from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m.) and yours truly is, of course, runnin' up and down that ole plank the other four days, so come on down.

On Saturday, April 2, the Kokpit will hold its annual Easter Basket-making spectacle, a benefit for AIDS service organizations. They need help this year coordinating workers; if you're interested in helping out please contact Mr. Leona at the Kokpit, 775-3260. This is a worthy cause folks so get off your duffs and show up.

In the Birthday Corner this week we have Robbie (aka Helen Trent) who celebrates his special day on the 30th. (I know it's a day late but the greetings are sincere, dear.)

Thank you Bill Toland for those wonderful roses you sent me. No doubt this will assuage your guilty conscience?

Birthday greetings are in order, too, for my publisher Bob Ross, who celebrates his special day on April 2. Do you know how long we've known each other, Bob? At least 36 years, according to my estimate. God, how time flies. Can you believe that the B.A.R. begins its twenty-third year on April 1?

Oh, and I don't want to forget a Happy Birthday greeting to T.J. Buckley. But don't worry, friend, I won't mention your age, as I know you'll get really mad.

That wonderful Empress Sissy Spaceout can now be seen flailing on the plank at the fabulous Wooden Horse. Do you know she's the only one I know who can make it through the trap door to the basement? They had to grease it when Greta Grass worked there — it was the only way she could get through. Incidentally, Greta should be back to work at The Company on California Street by the time you read this.

Well, here's wishing one and all a very happy Easter. Until next time, hugs and kisses from Lips. ▼

William Parker (Mama Billy)
1952-1994

Those who remember a bar called The Wild Goose will also remember the inspiration for that tiny little bar, William Parker. Or, as he was better known, Mama Billy.

Mama Billy passed away March 12 in Jackson, Mississippi. He died of a heart attack. Those who knew him know that Mama's spirit will live on.

"If anyone needed help with a benefit," recalls Bill "Tammy Lynn" Moore, "Mama was the one to go to. Not only would he tend the bar, he would provide the catering."

Tammy Lynn, a longtime Kimo's bartender, should know. When Mama closed his beloved Wild Goose in the mid '80s, he took his bartending skills (and magnificent voice) across the street to Kimo's. There, patrons happily received a regular diet of Mama's buffets, banging tambourines and Mama's very own renditions of "Minnie the Moocher" and "The Woman in Me."

Mama, who was 41 years old, came to San Francisco at age 17. It didn't take long before he found a large circle of friends who, in the words of Tammy Lynn, "really believed in partying and having a good old time."

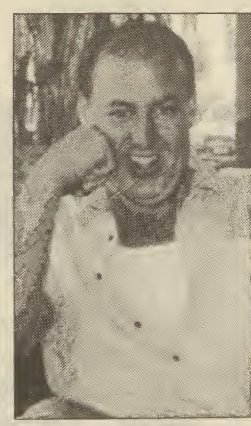
But by the late '80s, Mama was looking for new challenges. He found it in Jackson, Mississippi, where he moved and opened a restaurant a few blocks from the state capitol building. The business was so successful that he bought a business next door, knocked out a wall and expanded.

For most of his adult life, Mama was a huge man, approaching the 300-pound mark. That's the way most of us remember him. Larger than life. Full of life. Full of smiles, songs and tambourines. He was part of the great 1970s San Francisco scene, when there were simply never enough parties.

With that in mind, Kimo's will host a day of remembrance for this very special man Sunday, April 3 at 4 p.m. at Kimo's, 1351 Polk Street. It will be a day to tell friends

one more special story about Billy that you thought you'd never heard before. And, in honor of one of Billy's specialties, it will be a day to join friends in a nice potluck dinner.

In addition to stories, food and songs, there will be a "Mama Billy's Bonnet and Basket Contest," so be sure to bring that Easter bonnet and basket! And, by all means, be prepared to sing, "hidey-hidey ho" once again! ▼



People and Personals

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Sports

Sports Guide

(Continued from page 43)

for "B" league players and up
every Saturday except first
Saturday of each month, 9:30-
11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley,
100 Collingwood. Team and
individual advanced players
practice Mondays, 7:05 p.m.,
at Glen Park Gymnasium.
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Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
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one welcome. Jay: 864-0257.

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p.m. Call Jim Frazier (510)
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*Editor's note: To list your
group in the Sports Guide,
send the name of your group,
a brief description, the date,
times, and locations of your
practices, and a contact person
to: B.A.R.'s Sports Guide, 395
9th St. SF CA 94103. ▼*

Flag Football

(Continued from page 42)

in a truly physical game.
There were many penalties.
The Rebels put together a
scoring drive in the second
quarter when quarterback
Michelle Brodie found Kelly
Paul open and she ran it in
for a 60-yard score. In the
third quarter, Kelly found the
endzone again on a hand off.
She took it in from 35 yards
out. Yikes! couldn't get into
the endzone, but drove down-
field effectively. Final score:
Rebels 12; Yikes! 0.

Play of the Week: Dawn
Martin of The Posse took a
three-yard pass and turned it
into a 95-yard touch down.

Player of the Week: The
Cafe's Jackie Thomas, who
scored three of her team's
five touchdowns on a recep-
tion, interception and fumble
recovery. ▼

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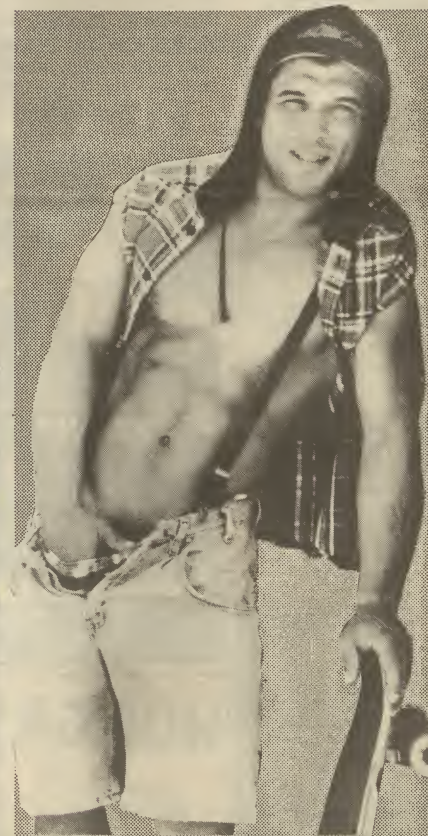
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THURSDAY: 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30
FRIDAY: 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30
SATURDAY: 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30
SUNDAY: 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30



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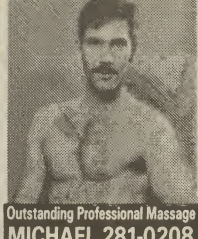
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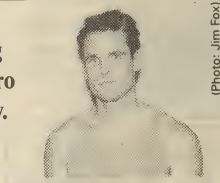
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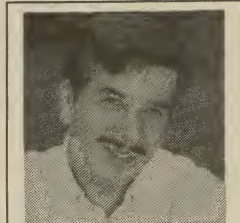


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First Massage
\$30/1 1/2 Hour \$20/1 hr
Market/Guerrero
Non-Sexual
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Soothe away stress and tension
with a 90 minute massage in a
warm, comfortable environment
Gift Certificates Available
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EAST BAY BEAR
Gives nude erotic massage.
Hndsm, healthy hands &
looks of a lumberjack!
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Late O.K.I.

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Benefits of Therapeutic. Ecstasy of Erotic.

\$35/60min Castro District \$45/90min

Big
Blond
Man

Incredibly
Powerful
Hands

Markus
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Enjoy the nurturing magic of a soothing deep
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Strong Hands, Warm Heart
Castro & Market Luxury Condo
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Great Bodywork • SF Hotels
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8 a.m.-10 p.m., EZ Parking
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Swedish Massage, OK For
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Sensual, Passionate,
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Treat Yourself to a Deep,
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by 6'2", Muscular, Handsome
Irish/Ital Grad Student.
EZ Parking, Castro Location.
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High-Strength sensitive touch
Jim
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SONOMA COUNTY
\$30 1 Hr. 9AM-9PM
Doug 837-8000 E14

San Jose — Swedish Massage
\$30/hr. \$45/1 1/2 Hr. In-calls
Anthony (408) 288-6169 CMT E17

HANDSOME LATIN
5'11", 170 LBS.
SANTA CLARA
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Rob 560-4371 In/out
Nude Erotic Massage E13

Relax with a very smooth
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No Nonsense Affair
A Professional Man
For Your Body and Head
By A Handsome Man
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24 HRS.
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... Deliriously happy client

Beautiful Clean Environment
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Minority Discount
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San Jose 408.552.0885 T-Thurs.
\$50 In/\$60 Out



Matthew Simmons
Body Electric Instructor

Swedish \$50 75 min. Tantric \$75 100 min.

387.9410

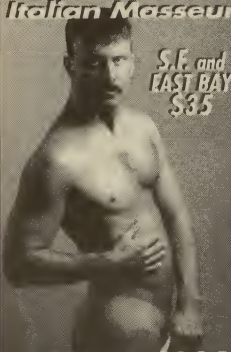
Sliding scale for PWAs

People and Personals

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SENSUOUS TOUCH
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\$35 IN/\$45 OUT

Italian Masseuse
S.E. and EAST BAY
\$35
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Sensual, Relaxing, Bodywork & foot reflexology, hot oil, deep-gentle. In/Out. Gary 202-0127 \$30/Hr./\$45 1 1/2 Hr.

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Complete Colon Cleansing
Professional Equipment
Sterile, Disposable Tubes
Trained Therapist Who is Sensitive and Thorough
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-Friendly & Strong
-6'3", 210 lbs
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-Swedish/Esalen
-Deep Tissue
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SF's Best Massage Value + +
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Relaxing Total Sensual Pleasure
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PENINSULA-LATIN E13

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• Esalen
• Deep Tissue

Nature, CMT
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Great Full Body Massage
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Deep-Gentle
— \$40/in —
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Quality Bodywork
Friendly, Professional
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Relaxing, Erotic, By 25 Y/O hairy, hung stud, 9 inches.
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\$55 / 1 1/2 HR.

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MARIN/SF
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25 YR LATIN HOT
Honest great looks
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■ Pain Relief
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■ Stress Reduction
Utilizing
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■ Deep Tissue
■ Somatics
■ Neuromuscular Therapy
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\$50
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by a handsome, masculine blond, 6', 190, beautifully nude muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat It
\$45/In/\$60 Out 75 mins.
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\$50 in only
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Sensual, Erotic
Nude Massage
by 24 y/o Handsome
Muscular Caring Guy
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Handsome, 24, with a passionate touch for your unabashed pleasure.
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\$55.00 1 1/2 Hr.
In/Out

Nude mass by well built man.
42 Dwtwn Mark 398-2441 24hr E16

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Pro Swedish Massage
Sensual and Deep
On Every Muscle
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2-Week intensives will give you an education your clients can feel.

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SWEDISH/ESALEN ACUPRESSURE
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People and Personals

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Deep, Relaxing, Sensual, Swedish/Esalen Massage by Strong, Experienced, Caring Hands

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 90 min/\$55 • Castro Location • Parking

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 Sensuous, Supportive, Nurturing, Rejuvenating
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 Deep Swedish Massage Available Throughout the holiday weekend.
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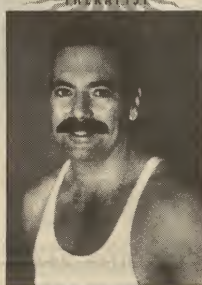
Nurturing Touch
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 Friendly, professional and at Castro/24th with parking. My training is in Esalen, and acupressure. MASSAGE sessions designed to meet your needs and preferences.
 \$45/75 min. Call Me Soon!
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 HEALING & RELAXING
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 S W E D I S H
 \$35/HR. C.M.T.

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 STRONG HANDS
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 From Stress Reduction to Simple Relaxation
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 YOUR MUSCLES ARE THE FOCUS AS THE STRENGTH FROM 21 YEARS OF PIANO TECHNIQUE IS COMBINED WITH SWEDISH AND SHIATSU MASSAGE. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.
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 MASSEUR offers strong hands, sensitive touch, warm studio.
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 Private-Candlelight-Class
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BUFFED BLOND
 Smooth ★ V. Cute ★ 25yo. ★ Tan
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 23 yo., Super Handsome, Dreamboy Latino with Gymnast Build, 5'5", 145 lbs., of Rock Hard Muscle! Certified in Switzerland.
 Treat yourself to International Pampering!
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 Sensual Swedish - Esalen massage to release tension and achieve body-mind harmony.
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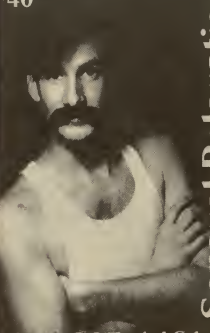
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 • Relaxing
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Anwar Hussain, CMT
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SF's Best Overall Value
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 6'4", Sexy \$50
 E. Bay. 1/2 Blk. BART. 1/2 Mile
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 E14

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 Relaxing Friendly
 \$45 in/\$60 out page 837-7229
 E13

\$40 Playful Nude Mass by 6' B.B. 666-0661 E13
 In Walnut Creek, Goodlooking, Friendly, Italian Guy with strong touch. Older, married, welcome! 9AM-9PM
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 DEEP TISSUE • SWEDISH TRAINED • FRIENDLY • \$55

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 Wholesomely Handsome, 33
 6', 195 lbs., great tan body
 1 1/2 hr. super massage in nude; Japan Center
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ALFREDO 282-3313

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 by
PRO TRAINER/ BODYBUILDER
 John 989-5317

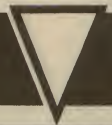
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 Athletic, Handsome, Strong, Sensitive. Highly Trained in Swedish, Esalen, Shiatsu, Deep Tissue. Intuitively Gifted For Your Needs.
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People and Personals

MASSAGE

THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE
HOT OIL SWEDISH MASSAGE
STRESS AND TOTAL TENSION RELIEF
ASIAN 6'4" 175 NOON 'TIL NINE
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ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular
Blond man, 32, 6', 190lbs., Very
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Sensual massage in the buff.
\$45in/\$60out 24 hrs.
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Therapeutic and Erotic
Deep, Satisfying, Massage
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Masterly Compleat Massage
By versatile, experienced
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"A masseur in the finest tradition
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Joseph Kramer, Director, Body Electric School
Swedish/Esalen, Acupressure, Rebirthing.
HIV+ encouraged. Castro location.
By appt. \$45 for 90 minutes \$60 for 2 healing hours
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Swedish/Esalen-Acupressure-Shiatsu
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TRY IT!
BY DAVID 457-5795 In Marin

Nude Buffed Masseur
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Erotic Sensitive Touch
Masterful Hands. 621-2354 E13
Strong Sensitive Touch
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Days-Evenings-Weekends.
Why pay more for a great
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Masculine 28 y/o Offers
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Sensual Massage by
Two Hot Guys
Chris & David
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BODYWORK BY STAN
Sensual*Relaxing*Healing*
North/East Bay*Eves/Wkends
(707) 645-1323 until 10 p.m. E13

Very Cute, Boyish, 22 y/o
blond/blue/tan/smooth
HOT NUDE MASSAGE
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Sore, Tired Muscles?
Stressed? Or just want to
feel better? Massage can
help. CMT combines styles
for a great massage 8am-9pm
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Swedish Hot Oil, Erotic
PROSTATE & MORE
FULL BODY MASSAGE
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Hot Latino,
handsome, hung,
smooth. mild to wild
avail. anytime
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Quality And Quantity!!!
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LIKE A WOMAN**
Extremely Attractive,
Versatile and Open-Minded
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I'm a Curvaceous 5'7"
Blond who will try anything
once! So if you're
looking for a great bottom,
Call: (415) 922-4955! E13

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Body Builder
240 Pounds, 25 years old
6'1", 52" ch., 20" a.
New In Town
From Paris
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**Southern
Gentle
man**
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10"x7 1/2", SMOOTH 6'4"
In/Out East Bay. 1/2 Blk. BART.
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FF/BD/WS/TT/CBT*Expert
Top will Fulfill Your
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5'9", 150 Hot Pistol!
A Warm Bearded Handsome
muscular, masculine
man w/a soft
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strong lovin' arms
will ride you way
off into the sunset
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"Dark Chocolate Top"
225 lbs, 5'10", 8" Tool
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6'2", Blond German Performer
Kurt Pgr. 837-7262 E14

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Sling, Toys, Rim-Seat
Handsome, 34, 6'4", 175
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Gym Guys * Hot Duos
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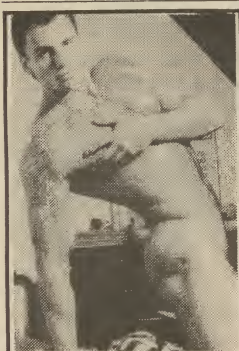
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5'11", 175#, 28 Y/O
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SERIOUS ONLY
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Long Hair Muscular Masc.
and Hot. \$60. 666-0661 E13

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8 X 6
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Muscular, Young, Military
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6'4", 235 LB.
8" cut 'N THICK
18" arm, 49" ch, 32" wa
Aggressive Verbal
Top
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Bodyworship
Fantasies
Most Scenes.
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ARE YOU BI?

Ruggedly Handsome, Mus-
cular Daddy. Very Hung,
U/C, and Gorgeous, Sexy
Young Female; together for
your fun!
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BIG IRISH
TALL HANDSOME
MASC. BODYBLDR.
HUNG LIKE YOU'D
HOPE. 255-9615



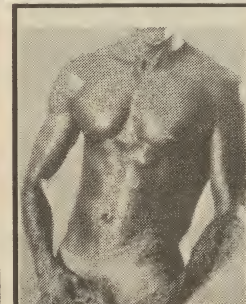
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LONG AND HARD 9"
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6'3", 220#, 9"
4 Year Sec. Baseball Player
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H A N D S O M E
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Hot Bronzed Stud
More than a hdsn face ...
More than a masc. body ...
... and the photo is for real
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People and Personals

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—long, & slow—my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtuned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959

6', 240#, 21A, 53CH
"A Man For All Reasons"
Bpr. # 698-2373
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BODY SURFER
Smooth Blind/Blu 6', 24 y/o
James 469-2058

DO YOU WANNA HORSE AROUND

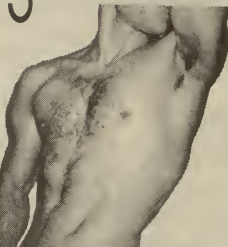
HORSEHUNG DUDE DIGS VIDEOS
BASEBALL BICEPS, WASHBOARD ABDS
TOP W/XL ROD NEEDS SPITSHINE
ARE YOU READY TO RIDE?

ANTHONY 292-6425 \$85



BRIAN
IN/OUT
VIDEOS
TOYS
& MORE
\$30-150
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STRONG, SOLID &



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6' 175# 42c 29w Brn/Blu
Massage Included
Friendly/BayAreaTravel

9X6



Dan

922-3645



560-5557

Out Calls, Can Travel

HOT YOUNG STUD ONE HOT TIME

MARC

266-0800

24 HrS. 23 Yrs. 5'8" 145 lbs.

6'2", 235 lbs., Blk BB, Super Safe
Exhb Muscle Worshp.
52°C, 21"A, Mega Dk.
11"x8" 863-4847
or dble up with my tall, hry
hung buddie. Straight/Blk OK

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Gloves, kinky, Andy. 5'9", 175
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Movies. Exper. Safe. \$70

Nice Body/Nice Guy

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Torso, Great Chest, Great
Sexy Energy w/o the Hype.
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Looking Man Makes Fantasies
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vampire

rocker boy
this teen wants to
rebel against dad!
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Hot Young Man
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NO BULL. 12 PLUS FOR YOUR
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Even if you are a complete beginner I can teach you how to relax
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caricatures of power and masculinity, just slow, sensual, creative
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I'm short, built (5'7", 160 lbs., 29w, 42c, 16a) handsome,
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slim, dancer's build
smooth, hairless skin
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Extra Handsome, Clean-Cut
Dark Blind, Bl, 5'10", 170#
Robert Ulrich Look
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24 Hrs. Pgr. Jay
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Charming, Sensual & Young
8" FLOWERBOY
Call Tim: 807-3626 Anytime!

STRAIGHT BOY

26 Years Old,
8" Thick

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SLEAVED HEAD GOATEE PITS
VERY HANDSOME MUSCULAR

DIRTY MOUTH SHOWOFF

Smart, Friendly Versatile
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Kristian 245-0189 In/Out

The Boy Next Door Is

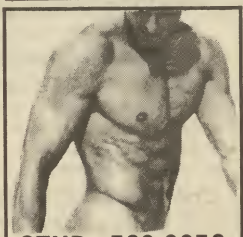
NAUGHTY

Patrick 708-3644

FFPOWERBUTPUNCH 587-9900

COBRA

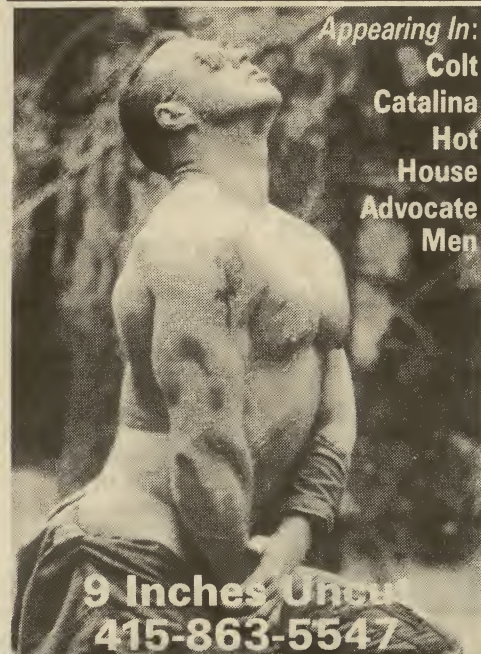
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STUD - 560-0056

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Hot
House
Advocate
Men



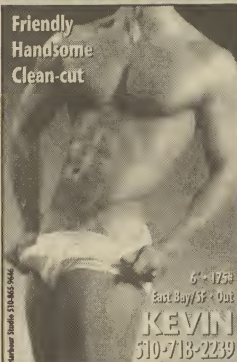
9 Inches Uncut
415-863-5547



People and Personals

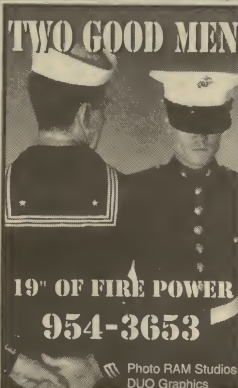
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Friendly Handsome Clean-cut



5' - 175#
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TWO GOOD MEN



19" OF FIRE POWER
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Photo RAM Studios
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DAVID



TALL HAIRY HUNG

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Friendly, Handsome Buffed, Sensuous

TONY 597-3613



998-6514 \$100

TAKE IT EASY



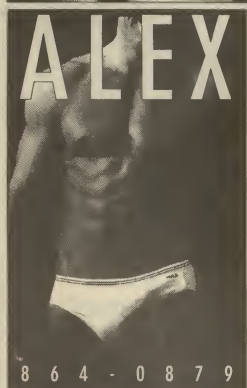
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RAM STUDIOS 558-9564



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ALEX



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Goodlooking Topman
31, 5'9", 165#
Open To All Fantasies
Jim (415) 441-3131

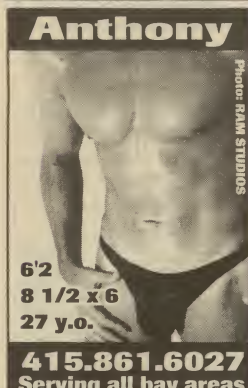
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B/Builder, 230 Lbs.,
6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A,
25 Years Old
From Italy
207-9337

Passion



Jeff
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TOP/out

Anthony



6'2
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.

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Robert Ulrich Look



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redhead, topman
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Low Hangers

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Pgr. (415) 907-4473 Rick

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for Submissives. 6'1", 210#
Musc. Pg. me now! 837-6474

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\$100 Chris - Any Scene!

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Body. Joe 303-9164 \$100

SEXY GUY
Hung 9" and the Hottest



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with 9" U/C Tattooed Dragon
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Leave Message

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PARTY GUY "9"
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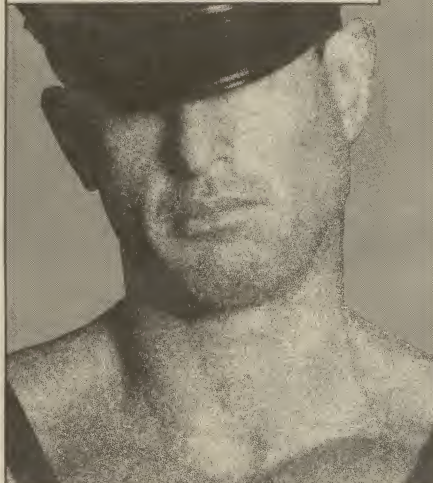
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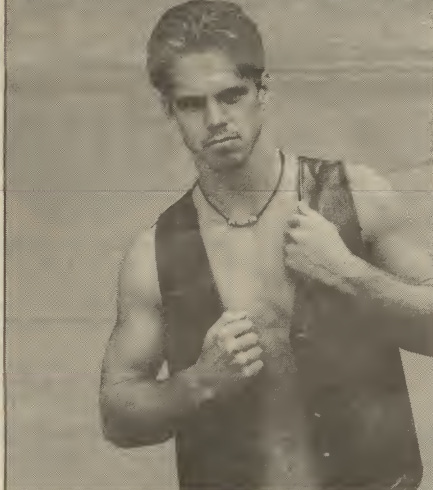
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